Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-079
Tuesday
27 April 1993

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-079 27 April 1993

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arab-Israeli Talks

Israel's Rubinstein Comments on Peace Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 1

Inter-Arab Affairs

Al-Sahhaf on Reconciliation Mediations With Egypt *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 1
Maghreb News Agencies for Joint Use of Satellite Channels *[MAP]* 2

Islamic Affairs

ICO Foreign Ministers Continue Meeting in Karachi 2
Draft Resolution on Bosnia Adopted *[Islamabad TV]* 2
Details of Draft Resolution *[IRNA]* 3
Ministers Approve Resolution *[Islamabad Radio]* 3
Bosnian Delegate Says Muslims Need Weapons *[THE NEWS 26 Apr]* 4
Turkey's Cetin Assesses Bosnia Resolution *[Ankara TV]* 4
Iran's Velayati Meets Counterparts *[IRNA]* 5
Egypt's Musa Addresses Meeting *[MENA]* 5
Jordan's Abu-Jabir on Peace Talks *[Amman Radio]* 6
Libyan Official Meets Ministers *[JANA]* 6
Velayati Meets Omani Minister *[Tehran Radio]* 7
Saudi Foreign Minister Speaks *[SPA]* 7
Pakistani President on Cooperation *[Islamabad Radio]* 8
Ban Urged on Importing Indian Labor *[DAWN 26 Apr]* 8
Nuclear-Free Zones in Region Urged *[Islamabad Radio]* 9
World League Appeals for Aid to Muslims in Bosnia *[SPA]* 9

Palestinian Affairs

Officials, Delegation Leave Amman for Talks in U.S. 10
Al-Husayni, 'Ashrawi Comment *[Amman TV]* 10
Al-Husayni on Israel *[Amman Radio]* 10
'Ashrawi on Expectations *[Amman TV]* 10
Al-Husayni Expects Release of 30 Long-Term Deportees *[Jerusalem Radio]* 11
PLO Statement on Resumption of Talks *[Algiers VOP]* 11
'Arafat Address on Peace Talks Resumption *[Algiers VOP]* 13
Ten Factions Opposed to Talks Issue Statement *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 14
Factions in 'Ayn al-Hulwah Call Strike To Protest Talks *[RFL]* 15

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Security Forces Kill 4 More 'Terrorists' at El Harrach *[Algiers TV]* 16
Security Operation Nets 40 Terrorists East of Algiers *[Algiers Radio]* 16
Oran Special Court Sentences 12 Conspirators *[Algiers Radio]* 16
HSC Continuing Dialogue; Consulative Council To Be Expanded *[Algiers Radio]* 16
Lawsuit Brought Against Newspaper Head, Party Official *[Algiers TV]* 16
Cherif Arrested, Released *[Algiers Radio]* 17

Egypt

Information Minister Relays Mubarak Remarks on Security *[Cairo Radio]* 17
Interior Minister Rejects Mediation, Favoritism *[MENA]* 19
Islamic Mediation Committee Meeting, Message Reported *[AL-SHA'B 20 Apr]* 19
Public Transportation Antiterror Search Teams Formed *[AL-WAFD 21 Apr]* 20
Fundamentalists Kill Coptic Student, Wound Another *[AFP]* 20
Police Officer Stabbed in Asyut; Dragnet Under Way *[MENA]* 20
Police Rule Out Terrorism in Attack on 2 Policemen *[MENA]* 20
Mubarak Appoints New Air Defense Commander *[Cairo Radio]* 21
Biography of New Commander *[MENA]* 21
Mubarak-King Husayn Summit Expected 'Soon' *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 23 Apr]* 21
Afghan, Pakistan Connection to Terror Viewed *[AL-DIYAR 9 Apr]* 21
Pakistan Urged To Return 'Arab Terrorists' *[MENA]* 22
Envoys Start African Tour, Carry Mubarak Messages 22
Ambassador Leaves for Tunis *[MENA]* 22
Ambassador Bound for Nairobi *[Cairo Radio]* 23
Envoys Travel to Other States *[MENA]* 23
Musa on Contacts To Promote Peace, African Summit *[MENA]* 23
Economic Delegation Leaves for Talks With IMF *[MENA]* 23
Hungarian Parliamentary Delegation Arrives on Visit *[MENA]* 24
Ends Visit, Departs *[MENA]* 24
Mubarak Receives Nigerian National Guard Commander *[MENA]* 24
Iraqi News Agency Reopens Cairo Office *[INA]* 24

Mauritania

President Signs Joint Communique With Burkina-Faso *[Nouakchott Radio]* 24

Sudan

'Alliance,' Rebels, Cairo Blamed in Coup Plot *[Omdurman Radio]* 25
Al-Bashir Comments on 'Plot,' Abuja *[Omdurman Radio]* 26
SNDG, SPLM Deny Plotting Coup *[Cairo Radio]* 26
Opposition Official on 'Coup Plot' *[London International]* 26
Egypt Said Harboring 'Invasion Forces' *[London AL-HAYAH 25 Apr]* 27
Al-Bashir Comments on Trip to Uganda, Kenya *[Omdurman Radio]* 28
Al-Bashir Receives Kenyan Deputy Information Minister *[Omdurman Radio]* 28
Assembly Speaker in Talks With Kenyan Deputy Minister *[Omdurman Radio]* 29
Al-Bashir Receives Visiting Iraqi Minister *[Omdurman Radio]* 29
Foreign Minister Returns From Egypt Meeting *[SUNA]* 29
Abuja Delegation Briefs al-Bashir Before Departure *[Omdurman Radio]* 29
SPLA's John Garang on Abuja Talks *[London International]* 30
Government Delegation, SPLM-United Issue Communique *[SUNA]* 31

Tunisia

Ben Ali Receives Libyan External Liaison Secretary *[Tunis TV]* 31
Ben Ali Accepts International Human Rights Charter *[Tunis Radio]* 31
Communist Party Conference Opens in Tunis 22 Apr *[Tunis TV]* 31
Renewal Movement Founded at Conference *[Tunis TV]* 31

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

Syrian Foreign Minister Arrives on Short Visit *[WAKH]* 33

Kuwait

Iraqi 'Elements' Reportedly Planned To Kill Bush *[MENA]* 33

Iraqi 'Terrorist Network' Captured *[Kuwait TV]* 33

Saudi Arabia

King Orders Further Aid for Bosnia-Herzegovina *[Riyadh TV]* 33
Communist Party Seeks Democracy Not 'Downfall of Monarchy' *[JORDAN TIMES 27 Apr]* 33
Deputy Minister on Combating Terrorism *[London AL-HAWADITH 23 Apr]* 34

United Arab Emirates

Sultan Qabus of Oman Arrives, Meets Shaykh Zayid *[WAKH]* 35
Sultan Qabus Departs *[WAKH]* 35

Yemen

Preparations for First All-Yemen Election Reported *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 22 Apr]* 35
Two Candidates Killed in al-Zuhrah *[AFP]* 36
'Personal Conflict' Said Behind Deaths *[AFP]* 36
Several Killed, Wounded by Police *[AFP]* 36
AFP Previews Parliamentary Elections 36
Voters Head for Polls To Elect Assembly *[Sanaa Radio]* 37
President Salih Said 'Satified' *[Sanaa Radio]* 37

IRAQ

More on Surrendering Nuclear Fuel to IAEA *[AFP]* 38
Al-Sahhaf Departs for Islamic Ministers Meeting *[INA]* 38
Al-Sahhaf Interviewed on Egypt, Arab Issues *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 38
Iran Accused of Lying Over POW Release *[INA]* 39
Ba'th Official Urges Turkey To Reconsider Policy *[INA]* 39
AL-QADISIYAH Expects 'Grave Changes' in Egypt *[INA]* 39
Clinton Called 'Accomplice in Zionist Crimes' *[INA]* 40
Tariq 'Aziz Receives PFLP Delegation *[Baghdad Radio]* 40
Saddam Attends Military Parade in Baghdad *[INA]* 40
Further on Military Parade *[Baghdad Radio]* 41
Ministry Reports Statistics on Deaths Due To Embargo *[INA]* 41
Separate Agriculture, Irrigation Ministries Decreed *[INA]* 42
Finance Minister Inaugurates New Private, Islamic Bank *[INA]* 42
Radio Announces New Kurdistan Government *[Voice of the People of Kurdistan]* 43
Kurdistan Government Takes Constitutional Oath *[Voice of Kurdistan]* 43
Rebel Radio Reports 'Air Show' Over Baghdad *[Voice of the Iraqi People]* 43
Islamic Resistance Attacks, Destroys Police Post *[Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution]* 43

ISRAEL

Minister Urges Ceding Golan Sovereignty To Achieve Peace *[Jerusalem TV]* 44
Baraq on Regional Situation, Peace Process *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 44
Egyptian Ambassador Hopes for 'Fruitful' Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 46
Deportees March Toward Checkpoint To Protest Peace Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 46
Christopher Remarks Seen as Intention Not To Discriminate *[DAVAR 27 Apr]* 46
Cooperation With U.S., Egypt on Islamic Fundamentalism *[AL HAMISHMAR 25 Apr]* 47
'Ivri Returns From 24-Hour Visit to Cairo *[Jerusalem Radio]* 47
Gaza Woman Dies; Attempted Stabbing Foiled in 'Akko *[Jerusalem Radio]* 47
Boy Killed by IDF Gunfire in Khan Yunus Incident *[Jerusalem Radio]* 47

JORDAN

King Husayn To Visit Washington in May *[SHIHAN 24-30 Apr]* 48
Chief Delegate al-Majali Heads For Washington *[Amman Radio]* 48
King, Queen Return From UK Visit *[Amman TV]* 48
Prime Minister on 'Private' Visit to Europe *[AL-RA'Y 24 Apr]* 48

Army Chief Receives Visiting French Commander *[Amman Radio]* 48
Prince Hasan Confers With Lanxade *[Amman Radio]* 48
Prime Minister Receives Lanxade *[Amman Radio]* 48
UN Sanctions Committee Stand on Iraq Criticized *[Amman Radio]* 48
Acting Premier, DFLP's Hawatimah Meet 25 Apr *[Amman Radio]* 49
Papers Facing Newsprint Shortage Due to 'Blockade' *[AL-RA'Y 22 Apr]* 49
Communist Party Begins First 'Legal' Congress *[JORDAN TIMES 22-23 Apr]* 49
General Secretary Reelected *[JORDAN TIMES 25 Apr]* 50

LEBANON

Deportees Stage 'Sit-In' at Israeli Army Checkpoint 52
Spokesman on March 26 Apr *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 52
Second Night of Vigil Planned *[AFP]* 52
Gunman Kills Palestinian, Wounds 6 Others in Sidon *[AFP]* 52
Victims Reportedly Hamas Supporters *[RFL]* 52
Sidon Figures Urge Halt to Inter-Palestinian Fighting *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 53
Strike 'Limited' in Sidon Camps, 'General' in North *[RFL]* 53
Palestinian Member of Islamic Group in Lebanon Killed *[VOL]* 53
Katyushas Fired From Hizballah-Held Villages *[AFP]* 53
DFLP Claims Clash With 'Israeli Patrol' *[VOL]* 53
Two 'Terrorists' Killed by SLA in South *[Jerusalem Radio]* 53
Southern Areas Come Under Israeli Mortar Fire *[VOL]* 53
Organization Warns Negotiators Against Accord With Israel *[VOL]* 54
Minister Denies Camps Train Sudanese Opposition *[MENA]* 54
Colombian Mafia Said Using Nation To Distribute Drugs *[VOM]* 54
Interior Minister Leaves for Damascus for Talks *[VOM]* 54
Qatari Information Minister Arrives on Visit *[Beirut Radio]* 54
Chinese Minister, Economic Delegation Arrive for Talks *[Beirut Radio]* 54

SYRIA

Mashariqah, Delegation Return From DPRK Visit *[Damascus Radio]* 55
Interior Minister, Lebanese Counterpart Discuss Security *[Damascus Radio]* 55
Commentary Says Peace Opportunity 'Most Important' *[Damascus Radio]* 55
TISHRIN Calls For 'Effective, Pressuring' U.S. Role *[Damascus Radio]* 56
Need for U.S. Role as 'Full Partner' Stressed *[Damascus Radio]* 56
U.S. Role in Talks, 'Fresh Opportunity' Noted *[Damascus Radio]* 57

SOUTH ASIA

India

CIS Delegation Holds Talks on Weapon Spares, Plant *[Delhi TV]* 59
Pakistani National Suspect in Landmine Blasts *[INDIAN EXPRESS 12 Apr]* 59
Talks Held With Kashmiri Policemen *[Delhi Radio]* 59
Five Militants Killed in Punjab *[Delhi Radio]* 59
Four Congress-I Dissidents Removed From Membership *[Delhi Radio]* 59
Parliamentary Committee Endorses Defense Budget *[Delhi Radio]* 59
Enhanced Role for Special Forces Urged *[INDIAN EXPRESS 12 Apr]* 60
Nuclear Power Generation Reaches 'New High' *[Delhi Radio]* 61
Gold Ore, Other Minerals in Madhya Pradesh *[Delhi Radio]* 61
Finance Minister Lists Economic Achievements *[Delhi Radio]* 61
Policies Aimed at Protecting Domestic Industries *[Delhi Radio]* 61
Commentary Views Foreign Investments Approval *[Delhi Radio]* 61
Major Exporter of Oil Seed, Edible Oil *[Delhi Radio]* 62
Inflation Rate Falls to 6.38 Percent *[Delhi Radio]* 62
Groups Plan Protests Over Economy, Communalism *[INDIAN EXPRESS 16 Apr]* 62
Finance Minister on Factors in Securities Scam *[Delhi Radio]* 63

Iran

Military Exercises Begin in Northern Persian Gulf *[Tehran TV]* 64
Victory-4 Maneuvers Continue *[Tehran Radio]* 64
Vice President Details 25 Apr Cabinet Session *[Tehran Radio]* 64
Anti-U.S. Demonstrations Held To Mark Rescue Attempt *[Tehran Radio]* 65
CIA Head Views on Iran as Supporter of Terrorism Noted *[Tehran TV]* 65
U.S. 'Interference' in Pakistan Viewed *[Tehran Radio]* 65
CIA Director's Visit to Cairo Viewed *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 15 Apr]* 65
GCC Statement Seen as 'Utter Subservience' to U.S. *[SALAM 13 Apr]* 66
Commentary Views ICO's Inaugural Session, Agenda *[Tehran Radio]* 67
Habibi Views Tehran-Islamabad Ties *[IRNA]* 68
Deputy Foreign Minister on Expelled Palestinians *[IRNA]* 68
Arabs Warned Against Peace Talks Participation *[RESALAT 18 Apr]* 68
ROK Labor Minister Discusses Joint Cooperation *[IRNA]* 69

Nepal

Indian Help Sought on Bhutanese Refugee Issue *[Delhi Radio]* 69
Minister Resigns; Cabinet Reshuffle Rumored *[AFP]* 69

Pakistan

Police Charge, Teargas Sharif Supporters *[AFP]* 69
New Punjab Chief Minister Sworn In 25 Apr *[Islamabad Radio]* 70
Wins Vote of Confidence *[Islamabad TV]* 70
Four Ministers Assigned Cabinet Portfolios *[THE NEWS 26 Apr]* 70
Muslim League Condemns Zadari Cabinet Appointment *[DAWN 23 Apr]* 71
President on Dissolution of Provincial Assemblies *[Islamabad Radio]* 71
Further Reaction to National Assembly Dissolution 72
Punjab MPs Back President *[Islamabad TV]* 72
Quetta Trade Centers Protest *[Islamabad Radio]* 72
'Clean' Sharif Followers Invited To Join Government *[AFP]* 72
Nawaz Sharif on General's Death, Politics *[DAWN 24 Apr]* 72
New Army Chief Says Military To Remain Neutral *[DAWN 26 Apr]* 73
Zardari on Ensuring 'Free, Fair' Elections *[THE NEWS 25 Apr]* 74
Army To Be Deployed Outside Polling Stations *[DAWN 26 Apr]* 74
New Intelligence Bureau Director Appointed *[THE NEWS 23 Apr]* 75
Agreement With PRC To Open Khunjerab Pass *[Islamabad International]* 75

Arab-Israeli Talks

Israel's Rubinstein Comments on Peace Talks

TA2704060893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Interview with Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli team to the talks with the Jordanians and the Palestinians, by correspondent Arye Golan in Washington on 26 April—recorded]

[Text] [Golan] Mr. Rubinstein, can we expect the current round of talks opening today to be more successful than the previous rounds? Will we move closer to peace?

[Rubinstein] We can hope so. As for assessments and expectations, we still cannot say because to a great extent, the ball is in our interlocutors' court.

[Golan] Is Israel coming to the talks with new proposals for the Palestinians to encourage them to enter more serious negotiations?

[Rubinstein] We are coming with the intention of exhausting every possible means and exploring every avenue to make progress if the other side proves willing. Our basic policy is no secret. It stipulates turning over most of the Civil Administration's authorities to the Palestinians, with Israel remaining responsible for security and Jewish settlements. All options will remain open for the negotiations on a permanent solution; however, a great deal can already be implemented in the near future, as well as in the long run, with regard to the transfer of powers to the Arab population. There are other spheres we could act on if the other side showed readiness.

[Golan] Following your talks over the weekend with U.S. officials on Mr. Djerejian's peace team, would you say that the United States is pressuring Israel to show more flexibility?

[Rubinstein] I most definitely would not use words like pressure. We held serious discussions with the U.S. peace team, in which we held consultations and exchanged assessments and proposals. There was no element of pressure. The atmosphere in the talks was good, and we have no reason to be displeased about anything.

[Golan] Did you bring the Palestinians a package of goodwill gestures or confidence-building measures beyond the proposals related to the autonomy plan?

[Rubinstein] People ask me that all the time. We have no reason not to discuss issues brought up by the Palestinians with regard to the recent atmosphere and conditions in the territories, in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. If such issues are raised, we have no reason not to discuss or even address them, if they do not affect security. There are certain things that could definitely be implemented if there is an atmosphere of goodwill and less violence.

[Golan] Such as lifting the closure, for example?

[Rubinstein] No, I do not wish to deal with the closure. We are all familiar with the background of events that led to the closure. The closure was not a result of political considerations or of the peace negotiations. It was a result of security constraints and the need to restore the public's declining sense of personal security following the wave of murders in March. Obviously, the closure has economic, as well as other, ramifications for the Arab residents of the territories, and we are examining various ways to cope with these developments, such as investments in the territories in a bid to create more jobs. We are also permitting some Palestinians to return to work inside Israel in a controlled manner. If these issues come up, we shall explain our positions and also hear what our interlocutors have to say. For instance, there is no reason why issues related to outside investments or economic initiatives could not be discussed by the delegations. We are definitely in favor of that.

[Golan] Mr. Rubinstein, are you optimistic this morning on the eve of the talks' resumption?

[Rubinstein] I would like to be optimistic and hope that, God willing, these talks will succeed. We are coming with a real intention to make them succeed, to grasp the whole picture, to protect our interests, and also to exhibit understanding and openness toward the positions of the other side. These are our goals, and if the other side shows readiness to seriously examine the issues, they will find us ready and willing.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Al-Sahhaf on Reconciliation Mediations With Egypt

JN2304195793 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Interview with Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf by radio correspondent Mustafa Bakri "on sidelines of 99th Arab League Ministerial Council meeting" in Cairo, from "The Event" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Bakri] Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, you recently took part in the 99th Arab League Ministerial Council meeting amid a positive atmosphere concerning talk about the restoration of Arab solidarity. According to your own assessment, what is the extent of Arab solidarity that can be achieved and does this agree with what was published in the Iraqi newspaper BABIL that Kuwait is the 19th governorate?

[Al-Sahhaf] There is an atmosphere that could help in taking a number of steps provided there is a serious desire and political decision on the part of sincere Arab parties that are concerned with creating a suitable climate for Arab solidarity and joint Arab action.

On the agenda of the 99th Arab League Ministerial Council meeting one would find some articles pertaining to joint Arab action. As dictated by Iraq's foreign policy, the Iraqi delegation is doing its best to strengthen and develop points which would qualify joint Arab action to bear more fruit. The Iraqi delegation worked within this framework. Iraq's stand and policy are very clear on joint Arab action and Arab solidarity. Despite the aggression against it, Iraq announced, on more than one occasion, that its willingness will continue to be the same within the framework of fruitful pan-Arab action. Iraq is willing to participate with all those who have the desire and the same honest and serious conviction to achieve Arab solidarity. And we will continue to work accordingly.

As for the last part of your question concerning the Iraqi newspaper BABIL. It is a free newspaper and has the right to publish its convictions. This issue totally differs from and does not relate to Iraq's official activities at the Arab League or within its network of international relations. I see no link between the two issues.

[Bakri] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat recently conducted mediation efforts between Egypt and Iraq. Were did these efforts reach?

[Al-Sahhaf] I am not aware of specific efforts by Palestinian President 'Arafat. However, I can tell you that Iraq's policy is clear and declared within the framework of Arab solidarity. We emphasized, more than once, at various official levels that Iraq welcomes and is willing to achieve joint Arab action and to develop relations with any Arab party that conveys the same political decision and serious willingness to achieve joint action and devlop relations that serve the interest of the Arab nation. This applies to all cases.

[Bakri] Do you believe there is a change in the Egyptian arena concerning Egypt's stand toward Iraq that could actually lead to the normalization of Egyptian-Iraqi relations?

[Al-Sahhaf] If you would allow me. I want to answer this question in the same way I answered your previous one. The Iraqi stand toward the relationship between Egypt and Iraq is very clear. Every Arab party has the same desire, willingness, political decision, and seriousness to keep relations at their best and to build joint Arab action on sound bases. This issue applies to all of us.

[Bakri] Thanks to Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf.

Maghreb News Agencies for Joint Use of Satellite Channels

LD2604165593 Rabat MAP in English 1308 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] Algiers, Apr. 26 (APS/POOL-UMA)—Technical directors of the five Maghreban news agencies wound up works here last week end with a call to jointly use satellite channels for the dissemination of their services.

This telecom system will allow the dissemination of the news produced by the five agencies in real time to a large number of users with a better quality and lower costs. To materialize this operation, each agency will use, in a transitory phase, the satellite channels of the Tunisian news agency 'TAP' and pay a part of location fees.

Participants underlined the necessity to complete the connection of the five news agencies through the installation of multiplexers between Algiers and Rabat, Rabat-Tunis, Tunis-Tripoli and Algiers- Nouakchott.

Intensive consultations to exchange views and experience in information realms to avoid errors made up to now were also recommended. In this respect, it was convened to apply the soo ient possible the international classification norms of news items taking into account the peculiarities of each agency to facilitate the paramétrage of Maghreban information systems.

Concerning the computerization of the archives services, participants suggested to compare the studies compiled by each agency during the meeting of heads of these services in Rabat next Apr. 28-29.

Islamic Affairs

ICO Foreign Ministers Continue Meeting in Karachi

Draft Resolution on Bosnia Adopted

BK2604154093 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] The contact group of the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] foreign ministers has approved the draft resolution on the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, reaffirming the commitment to restore peace in the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina as well as safeguarding its unity, sovereignty, political independence, and territorial integrity. The draft resolution has been proposed by Pakistan, Turkey, Iran, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, and Malaysia. The draft resolution says that the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina has the inherent right of individual or collective self defense. The draft resolution says that the current arms embargo on the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina is the major factor impeding the use of the right of self defense. The draft resolution requests the Security Council to act decisively and expeditiously under the provision of UN Charter and to authorize UN member states in cooperation with the goverment of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina to use all necessary means to uphold and restore the sovereignty, political independence, territorial integrity, and unity of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The draft resolution strongly condemns the Serbian aggression against the Republic of Bosnia and the noncompliance by Serbia and Montenegro and the Bosnian Serb party to the will of the international community. It also requests the Security Council to exempt without any further delay the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina from the arms

embargo as imposed on the former Yugoslavia under Security Council Resolution 713.

The foreign ministers of the Islamic countries continued their deliberation on the second day today. Participating in the general debate in the plenary session this morning, the foreign minister of Brunei Darussalam Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, said the entire Muslim ummah [community] should work together for peace in the world. Deputy Prime minister and Foreign Minister of Kuwait Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah demanded total withdrawal of Israeli troops from all the occupied territories. Foreign minister of Egypt Mr. Amre Moussa called upon the Muslim countries to take immediate and effective steps to safeguard the interests of the Muslim ummah. The minister of state for foreign affairs of Sudan, Mr. Husayn Sulayman Abu Salih, expressed concern at the situation in Somalia and appealed for more aid. The Tunisian foreign minister, Mr. Habib ben Yahya, called for an urgent solution of the Bosnian problem. The foreign minister of Uganda, Mr. Ali Kivejinja, called for constructive and unanimous approach of the Muslim ummah to deal with the challenges.

More foreign ministers spoke in the evening session. The foreign minister of Algeria, Mr. Redha Malek, said that Muslim countries should work out a common strategy to achieve the aspirations of the Islamic ummah. The foreign minister Bahrain, Shaykh Muhammad bin Mubarak al Khalifa, paid tributes to Pakistan for its efforts to promote the cause of Islamic ummah. Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal [of Saudi Arabia] called for bringing an end to the tragic situation in the occupied Kashmir. He emphasized the necessity to solve the Kashmir issue in accordance with the UN resolutions.

The Malaysian foreign minister, Mr. Abdullah al-Badawi, in his speech emphasized the need to further cement the economic and political relations. The Indonesian foreign minister, Mr. Ali Alatas, called for closer cooperation between the Muslim states, particularly in the economic field.

Details of Draft Resolution

LD2604164193 Tehran IRNA in English 1507 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] Karachi, April 26, IRNA—The foreign ministers meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) [ICO] today unanimously adopted a draft resolution prepared by the OIC contact group on Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The United Nations Security Council will be informed of the decision taken by the ministerial conference today and will be urged to act decisively under the provisions of the Chapter VII of the UN Charter.

The resolution was adopted by the OIC contact group, including Iran, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Senegal, Egypt and Malaysia in their Sunday ministerial meeting here.

The resolution urges the Security Council to "immediately take further appropriate measures, including the authorization of the use of force, under the UN Charter.

The resolution calls for placing of all heavy weapons in the Republic of B-H under effective international control or neutralizing them to render them inoperative, interdiction of all arms supplies to the Serbs, institution of appropriate measures for reparations for the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina by Serbia and Montenegro, imposition of a complete and comprehensive economic blockade against Serbia and Montenegro, and freezing of all assets abroad of Serbia-Montenegro.

The resolution calls on the Security Council to authorize UN member states, in cooperation with the Government of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, to use all necessary means to uphold and restore the sovereignty, political independence, territorial integrity and unity of B-H Republic.

It also requests the Security Council to guarantee safe routes for unhindered provision and delivery of international assistance to B-H.

A mission at ministerial level: including members of the OIC contact group will also be despatched to the capitals of the permanent members of the Security Council to explain the provisions of the resolution and to seek their agreement for the necessary follow-up action in the Security Council.

Ministers Approve Resolution

BK2704030393 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] The Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] foreign ministers conference has unanimously approved a resolution which asks the UN Security Council to immediately take more effective steps, including the use of force, to end the Serb aggression against Bosnia-Herzegovina.

A conference spokesman told newsmen that the resolution asks the UN Security Council to place all heavy weapons in Bosnia-Herzegovina under international control or to neutralize them to render them inoperative. The resolution also emphasizes the imposition of a complete economic blockade against Serbia-Montenegro, freezing of all their assets in foreign countries, and ending of trade and economic ties with Serbia.

The spokesman said a special session of the ICO foreign ministers will be held today in connection with assistance for Bosnia.

ICO Secretary General Hamid al-Gabid has appealed to the member states and the international community to extend assistance to Afghanistan on humanitarian grounds as it is in dire need of help. In a report submitted to the ICO foreign ministers conference, he said Afghanistan is faced with the big challenge of national reconstruction. It also has to solve major problems like the

repatriation and rehabilitation of hundreds of thousands of refugees in Iran and Pakistan.

Various committees set up by the ICO foreign ministers conference are expected to complete their work by this evening. A conference spokesman said that the committee on culture has approved many resolutions, including the ICO recommendations on the demolition of the Babri Mosque. The resolution asks India to reconstruct the mosque at its original place and safeguard the rights of Muslim minorities.

Pakistan has expressed satisfaction at the solidarity expressed with it by the ICO foreign ministers conference on the Kashmir issue. A Foreign Office spokesman told newsmen in Karachi that the foreign ministers have supported the Pakistan stand and almost every member emphasized that the Kashmir issue should be settled through a peaceful dialogue between India and Pakistan in accordance with UN resolutions.

Bosnian Delegate Says Muslims Need Weapons

BK2604145693 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 26 Apr 93 p 1

[Text] Karachi—Muslims are the victims of genocide in Bosnia-Herzegovina and millions of Muslims are watching and drawing inevitable conclusions, regarding why the Europeans and the US are dragging their feet on helping bring about an end to the war in Bosnia, Haris Silajdzic, the Bosnian Foreign Minister, told THE NEWS in an exclusive interview on Sunday.

"Those who are afraid of Islamic radicalism and doing nothing should know that they are feeding this through the guns of Serbia," he said.

Silajdzic is attending the 21st Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers [ICO], where a special Contact Group on Bosnia met late on Sunday.

Foreign ministers from Pakistan, Egypt, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Malaysia met in a special session to discuss the situation in Bosnia. "We are very pleased with the outcome of these deliberations," Akram Zaki, Secretary General Foreign Affairs told THE NEWS immediately after the special sesson. "We have drafted a very strong resolution on Bosnia which will be presented to the ICFM [Islamic Conference Foreign Ministers] tomorrow (Monday)," he said.

On leaving the special session, Mr. Haris Silajdzic was all smiles. "We are very satisfied with the outcome of this evening's session," he said. "We have a good and strong resolution showing resolve and decisiveness."

When talking to THE NEWS prior to the meeting of the Contact group, Silajdzic said the Bosnians need weapons desperately. "We do not need ground forces (a reference to the potential of European and US troops becoming involved in Bosnia). We have men to fight. The international community has to realise we are not ready to lie down and die quietly. We are not ready to negotiate to the last of us," he said emphatically.

The Bosnian foreign minister criticised the international community for acting to help Bosnia. "We want immediate action. The situation is unjust and immoral. The genocide of Bosnians has continued for over a year and the Serbs kill with impunity.

"We don't want ground forces, we want weapons. The aggressors have been enough time to keep taking more and killing more. [sentence as published] We need arms, not food. What is the use of feeding a man one day only to have him killed the following day," he said bleakly.

He sharply criticised the Europeans for failing to do a single thing to help the Bosnians. Commenting on the no-fly zone in effect over Bosnia, he said the zone has been enacted but it had to be seen if it was effective. "But it took seven months just to enact the no-fly zone," he said bitterly.

The Bosnian foreign minister underlined the urgency of lifting the arms embargo on the Muslims. He said that the Serbs were receiving weapons and support from Serbia and the Muslims were being killed in huge numbers. Silajdzic said that the Muslims need to fight back to survive. He said that if the Serbs could be stopped by the international community from massacring the Muslims, then there could be negotiations. But if the international community could not stop the Serbs, then the Muslims must be allowed to defend themselves immediately.

Bosnia hopes to receive strong support from the Organisation of the Islamic Conference both morally and financially. "We need at least 260 million dollars in aid from the world community," he said. Some of that amound may be forthcoming at the ICFM conference. The foreign ministers are scheduled to hold a special pledging session for Bosnia on Monday. The draft agenda prepared on Sunday evening will also be tabled in Monday's plenary session.

Haris Silajdzic told THE NEWS he was particularly gratified by the strong outpouring of emotion and support from the government and people of Pakistan. "The unreserved sympathy and support from Pakistan makes this occasion very special for us," he said.

Turkey's Cetin Assesses Bosnia Resolution

TA2604181693 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1700 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Report by Inci Tanriover in Karachi]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin, addressing the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] foreign ministers meeting in Karachi, referred to many regional problems, saying that the international community should act immediately if it does not want to be considered an accomplice to the murders being committed by the Serbs. He added that the indifference of the international community has encouraged Armenia to use force to attain its goals

in Azerbaijan. Cetin further stressed that Armenia should withdraw from Azerbaijani territory and sign a cease-fire agreement with Azerbaijan.

Referring to the Cyprus problem, Cetin briefed the meeting on recent developments adding that the Greek Cypriot side is insistent on not accepting the existence of two equal communities on the island. Cetin made the following assessment to the TRT [Turkish Radio and Television] on the ICO resolution:

[Begin Cetin recording] I believe that at this critical stage the message delivered by the ICO and its members on the issue of Bosnia-Herzegovina should be heeded. The world can no longer tolerate what is happening. The fact that the Serbs are still refusing to sign the agreement that has already been signed by the Bosnian Muslims and Croats and the fact that the attacks and the bloodshed are still continuing are a cause for great concern. With this resolution, the ICO has expressed its concern and determination on the issue. [end recording]

Iran's Velayati Meets Counterparts

LD2604124693 Tehran IRNA in English 1223 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] Karachi, April 26, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati of the Islamic Republic and the United Arab Emirates State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid al Nuhayyan met here today and discussed issues of mutual respect.

The two ministers are here to attend the 21st conference of the foreign ministers of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) [ICO] which began its five-day meet here Sunday.

The urgent issues of the Islamic world and ways to strengthen the OIC and its activities were discussed between Velayati and al Nuhayyan, an Iranian delegate told IRNA.

They also reviewed regional and international events and stressed that bilateral relations between the two Muslim nations should be consolidated through joint efforts.

Velayati also held a meeting with the Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' today and discussed with him various issues, including bilateral relations, regional and international topics.

Egypt's Musa Addresses Meeting

NC2604160093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] Karachi, 26 Apr (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina requires a swift and decisive intervention before the tragedy turns into a real catastrophe. He said the Security Council should reiterate the Bosnian government's right to self-defense in accordance with the UN Charter.

Addressing the 21st Conference of Islamic States' Foreign Ministers in Karachi today, 'Amr Musa said Egypt's historical and cultural concept of events demonstrates that certain quarters in the international community have abused nationalism and religion. He said the gates of hell were opened to revive past wars, maneuvers, and conspiracies. He said: Our message and responsibility dictate that we confront this grave tendency and flood.

In his speech, 'Amr Musa said that events require the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] to shoulder huge and unprecedented responsibilities. He said the change in the structure of new international relations requires us to contribute toward drafting the new international dealings. This, he said, would open the way to achieving a secure and dignified life for the Islamic nations under the canopy of peace, tolerance, and fraternity. Under this new change, it behooves international organizations to harmonize with the new reality and modernize their tools and methods, the foreign minister said.

'Amr Musa stated: The ICO cannot be an exception. And he stressed that safeguarding its role does not only emanate from the importance of the real Islamic role in drafting the new international relations, but also from the challenges facing the Islamic world requiring us to marshal all our energies to achieve vast horizons of cooperation, equality, and joint action.

In his address, 'Amr Musa said he believed the energies hidden in the heart of the Islamic nation should reflect on ICO work and advance its efforts toward making every sphere more effective. He stressed the need to translate guidance into a timetable to be adhered to.

The foreign minister touched on misusing national awareness to destroy international relations, which he described as harmful, disturbing, and grave. He said nothing is more grotesque than this bloody tragedy, when Serb nationalism translates the ugliest ethnical and racist trends of destruction, killing, and cultural backwardness into attempts to annihilate another nationalism or another civilization with the aim of expanding, devouring the land, and displacing the people.

'Amr Musa denounced the barbaric acts and genocide perpetrated by the racist Serb nationalists in Bosnia-Herzegovina, acts that recall similar incidents from the dark ages. Noting that these acts have provoked the Islamic world and weighed on nations' consciences, he urged a prompt and firm intervention in this tragedy before it turns into a historic catastrophe.

The foreign minister called on the UN Security Council to adopt serious and enforceable measures in line with the UN Charter to halt the aggression on Bosnia-Herzegovina, to apply international law to the aggressors, and to force them to implement Security Council resolutions.

'Amr Musa added: The Security Council must also emphasize the Bosnian Government's legitimate right to self-defense within the context of the UN Charter. It

must enable it to exercise such self- defense by lifting the arms embargo imposed on it so that it might confront the growing superiority of the aggressor forces, gaining strength through the circumvention of Security Council resolutions, the assistance given to them by certain countries, and other countries turning a blind eye to the flouting of Security Council resolutions.

Musa urged the conference to extend a helping hand to Muslims in other countries. He referred to the regrettable conditions in Afghanistan, where the victors and brothers of yesterday are divided among themselves, heedless of what this will do to their country's peace and stability. Referring to the fragmentation in Somalia, he said there is a flicker of hope that national reconciliation will occur and normal conditions will be restored.

The foreign minister commented on the problems faced by Muslim minorities in various countries, urging that the conditions of Muslims be followed up and handled within the context of international law.

He referred to the conflict in Kashmir and other places and called for consistent efforts to resolve these in a peaceful, just way.

On the recent worsening of the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh and other territories in Azerbaijan, the foreign minister called for preventing the acquisition of gains by force. He urged the parties to resolve their differences peacefully.

'Amr Musa asserted that from its historical experience, Egypt views contemporary events as the product of some groups' misuse of nationalism and, indeed, religion. The gates of hell were opened to take human society back to war, adventure, and conspiracies. He urged the Islamic delegates to confront this dangerous, torrential trend and explained that the starting point for the required confrontation is to acknowledge that the challenges inside the Islamic world are no less stupendous than those outside. He said some Islamic countries are fighting and invading each other, encouraging terrorism or at least sympathizing with it, and aiding and abetting attempts to destabilize fraternal countries. He said this is a very serious development, because it erodes Islamic cohesion, opens gaps in inter-Muslim relations that will be difficult to mend, and harms international relations.

The minister also referred to some who have chosen to use Islam as a guise to pursue narrow, transient objectives and to fulfill false dreams.

Foreign Minister Musa dealt with the economies of Islamic states and Third World countries, saying they face great problems because of debt, poverty, and the decline in the standard of living, education, and social and economic development.

He said: The challenges we face require us to shoulder our responsibilities and mobilize our human and material resources realistically and creatively so that we can promote economic and trade cooperation between our countries and peoples.

The foreign minister proposed a package of ideas to develop methods of action by getting economic and trade cooperation between the Islamic states out of the cycle of glittering slogans and frozen frameworks and by delineating fields of cooperation and economic methods. 'Amr Musa said man must enjoy his basic rights as a guarantee for his fruitful and serious participation.

The foreign minister said Egypt will pursue its serious efforts to regain the occupied Palestinian territories, the Palestinian people's rights, the occupied Syrian Golan Heights, and Lebanese land. He stated that Egypt will also continue its efforts until a just and lasting peace is established in the region for everyone's good and prosperity.

Musa reiterated Egypt's readiness to help to generously promote the joint Islamic action and its cooperation with the ICO secretary general and the member states to ensure a successful conference.

Jordan's Abu-Jabir on Peace Talks

JN2604165293 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1600 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] [Jordanian] Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir has expressed Jordan's hope that the next round of the Middle East peace talks, which will start in Washington tomorrow, will achieve substantial progress and that the cosponsors of the peace conference will exert needed efforts to make them a success.

Addressing the 21st conference of the Islamic states' foreign ministers [ICO] in Karachi, Mr. Abu-Jabir said any comprehensive settlement of the Middle East conflict should guarantee the Palestinians' national rights and lead to Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab lands, including Jerusalem.

Libyan Official Meets Ministers

LD2604191393 Tripoli JANA in English 1432 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] Karachi, al-Tayr [April] 26, JAMAHARIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau today held several meetings with the foreign ministers of Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Uganda, Indonesia, Comoros Island, Mozambique and Mali, during which bilateral relations with the Great Jamahariyah and matters of joint interest were discussed.

During the meetings points of view were also exchanged on issues on the agenda of the 51st session of the OIC [Islamic Conference Organization] foreign ministers conference, currently taking place in Karachi.

Velayati Meets Omani Minister

LD2604213593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Our country's Foreign Minister, Mr. Velayati, who is in Karachi, participating in the Islamic Conference Organization, held separate meetings this evening with the Omani minister of state for foreign affairs and the foreign ministers of Kuwait, Bahrain, and Brunei.

During the meetings expansion of mutual ties, regional cooperation, issues concerning the world of Islam, and international developments were reviewed and views exchanged on them.

Saudi Foreign Minister Speaks

LD2704021693 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2210 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Address by Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal to foreign ministers of the Islamic Conference Organization, ICO, on 26 April in Karachi, Pakistan—recorded]

[Excerpts] Karachi, 26 Apr—In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted]

At a time when the international community finds itself on the threshold of a new historic stage marked by detente and concord in international relations as a result of the ebbing away of the cold war and the beginning of a new era of international cooperation based on the principle of shunning the use of force as a way of solving conflicts between peoples, and of being inspired by the foundations liable to spread security and peace throughout the world, and of responding to the aspirations of man to a secure and decent life, in the context of a wave of optimism that came along what it was agreed to be call a new international order, our Islamic nation is living through a delicate and difficult stage of its history, a stage marked by seditions and differences between the sons of one nation, and containing many causes of tension and elements of fragmentation. Due to the troubles and problems that have beset it and are besetting it every day, our nation looks as if it is incapable of taking the place it deserves and which accords with its eternal heavenly mission. [passage omitted]

The situation being as it is, we must adopt a sincere stand with ourselves through which we would draw lessons and correct the defects, deviation and heinous extremism that have beset our march. In so doing we should remember the teachings of our graceful religion, and the principles of our tolerant shari'ah that shun division, rejects fragmentation, and calls for cooperation on piety and devoutness, and leaving aside all that leads to sin and aggression. If we do so, we would have paved the way for our nation to retrieve its place and for Muslims to recover their pride and glory.

Mr. Chairman, we have heard with great interest the touching speech of the Foreign Minister of Bosnia-Herzegovina which contained the most eloquent description of the painful reality experienced by our brethren in religion and faith as a result of being subjected to a hateful war of annihilation and ethnic cleansing waged for over a year by Bosnian Serbs who are being supported in that by the republics of Serbia and Montenegro. Tens of thousands of our brothers were martyred during this war and a similar number were exposed to crimes of homelessness and annihilation, not to mention incidents of rape which were committed within the sight and hearing of the world.

Out of its religious and historical responsibility, the government of the Servant of the Two Holy Places has persisted since the break-out of the crisis in offering its political, moral and material support to the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina. While feeling utmost concern about the continuing Serbian aggression, it [the Saudi government] urges the international community to assume its responsibilities toward this human tragedy by intervening to stop the war of annihilation to which a member-country of the UN is being subjected. [passage omitted]

What Srebrenica has been and is still being subjected to by Serbian forces despite the presence of UN forces compels the international organization to confront the aggressor there instead of being contented with managing the crisis. The Security Council waited six whole months to issue a resolution imposing a no-fly zone in Bosnia-Herzegovina. How long will the Security Council require to impose intervention to stop the episode of slaughter and killing practiced daily by Serbians against the people of this afflicted state? If the UN does not intervene now before it is too late, there will not be anything there to rescue. In this context, European states have to bear a special responsibility toward what is taking place in that part of the world.

What raises our astonishment and surprise is to find that the Europeans, after all that they have suffered as a result of lack of early confrontation with the policy of expansionism, aggression and ethnic cleansing which was exercised in Europe in the thirties, are not showing now the required firmness and determination to confront a similar policy in the middle of Europe; millions of European victims are witnesses to what the slackened policy in Europe led to during that period.

Wisdom and logic dictates on the European states to move now to confront whoever is behind this hateful policy which brings the omen of the worst consequences. Otherwise, the situation will be exacerbated and evil will spread in many parts of that continent. What we expect from them and from all the international sides is to demonstrate some seriousness and determination to end this tragic situation. According to our assessment that will not be achieved without a collective move by the international community in accordance with the stipulation of Chapter Seven of the UN Charter, and for that

move to be coupled with lifting the ban on arms, from which only the aggressor has benefited while the people of Bosnia have been deprived of the legitimate means to defend themselves on the basis of article 51 of the UN Charter. It is essential to ensure that humanitarian aid and relief material reach those who deserve them in Bosnia-Herzegovina even if that requires the use of force.

The logic of justice makes it inevitable to intensify the sanctions on Serbs and to isolate them internationally until they comply with the international will and stop their treacherous aggression. We have great hope that the Islamic states will emerge from this meeting more prepared and determined to offer every kind of help and support to the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The least the Islamic states could do in that regard is to sever their political, economic and trade relations with the Serbs and their allies in Serbia and Montenegro. [passage omitted]

Pakistani President on Cooperation

BK2704025093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has expressed the hope that the Islamic Conference Organization's [ICO] foreign ministers conference will prove an important turning point in the evolution of unity and cooperation between Islamic states. Speaking at a banquet hosted by him in honor of the ICO foreign ministers in Karachi last night, he said the conference offers Islamic states the most promising framework to forge unity and build cooperation among their people. The president said that in the wake of the present challenges faced by the Islamic community, we should not forget that the Islamic states through their collective efforts have achieved many successes. He said he was confident that the ICO foreign ministers at their conference will keep the objectives and aims of the Islamic world supreme and fully support them.

The president said the ICO foreign ministers will earnestly strive to mobilize moral and material support to all those Muslim people facing aggression and to redress discrimination and oppression against the Muslims in non-Islamic states. Ghulam Ishaq Khan said our brothers and sisters in Occupied Kashmir, Bosnia, Palestine, Azerbaijan and many other parts of the world are being subjected to repression. He said Islamic holy places like the Babri Mosque have been demolished and thousands of Muslims have been murdered. He added that we need to end our differences and endeavor to forge unity and cooperation at the international level with a view to achieving our common objectives.

Referring to the economic cooperation between the Islamic states, the president said we have already embarked upon a special program to expand trade and it is our sincere desire that an Islamic common market be set up.

Ban Urged on Importing Indian Labor

BK2604135193 Karachi DAWN in English 26 Apr 93 pp 1, 18

[Text] Karachi, April 25—The Organisation of Islamic Countries (OIC) [ICO] fact-finding mission on the situation in held Kashmir has recommended to the member countries to consider stopping importing manpower from India to force it to stop repression in the valley, informed sources told DAWN.

The report, presently under consideration of the Political Committee of the Foreign Ministers Conference for adoption, has recommended to the OIC member states to "consider imposing restrictions on scientific, cultural, manpower and other exchanges with India pending the reversal of India's repression in held Kashmir."

It also calls upon the member states to consider reviewing economic and trade relations with India and make them conditional with reversal of its repressive policies and practices in the Occupied Kashmir.

India is one of the biggest exporters of manpower to Middle East and Gulf states, besides having economic and trade interests with these Islamic states.

The factfinding mission was set up at the OIC Coordinai meeting of Fogn Ministers held at the United Nations in New York to visit occupied Kashmir and Azad Kashmir.

India, however, refused to allow the members of the factfinding mission to visit occupied Kashmir terming it as an interference in its internal affairs.

The OIC Secretary-General later directed the mission to proceed to Azad Kashmir to assess the situation on the basis of evidence gathered from displaced Kashmiris and victims of Indian repression who had managed to cross the Line of Contro! dividing the two parts of Kashmir.

The mission headed by OIC Assistant Secretary General Ibrahim Bakr undere visit t Kashmir from February 14 to 18 this year.

In its 13-page report, the mission came to the conclusion that India has "sanctified" extreme repression through draconian laws and its security forces were involved in brutalisation of the Kashmiri people.

It said the Indian strategy was to employ overwhelming force to suppress the uprising of the Kashmiri people for self-determination.

Indian forces have committed acts of indiscriminate firing on mass arrests, detention without trial, torture, gang-rapes and acts of arson in the valley, the mission reported to the OIC.

It accused Indian forces of deliberately targeting youth with operations such as "Catch of Kill" and their involvement in "systematic and organised gang-rapes of Muslim women."

The report termed Indian explanations of its repressive measures as "absurd."

It has recommended that in order to stop the Indian atrocities the OIC member states should take the following measures:

1. Exert efforts both bilaterally with India as we collevely at the international llevant UN fora with a view to putting an end to the Indian repression in Kashmir.

2. Consider reviewing economic and trade relations with India and make these conditional on the reversal of its repressive policies and practices in Kashmir.

3. Consider imposing restrictions on scientific, cultural, manpower and other exchanges with India pending the reversal of India's repression in Kashmir.

4. Make concerted efforts at the United Nations General Assembly, the UN Human Rights Commission and all other relevant fora of the UN to investigate the violations of human rights in Kashmir anor the adoption of adequate and effective measures to restore fundamental rights and freedom of the Kashmiri people.

5. Urge the International Committee of the Red Cross to send its delegates to Occupied Kashmir and to intensify efforts to have international humanitarian organisations provide relief and assistance to the Kashmiri people.

6. Extend full political, diplomatic, moral and material support to the Muslim people of Kashmir for the realisation of their right to self-determination.

7. Urge the nongovernmental organisations in member states to mobilise humanitarian assistance for the Kashmiri people.

The OIC Secretary General Hamid al-Gabid has concurred with the conclusions and recommendations of the Fact Finding Mission and urged the member states to adopt concrete measures to stop India from carrying our repression against Kashmiri people.

The Secretary General has also emphasised the need for intensifying efforts to promote peaceful solution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions and in the spirit of the Simla agreement.

Nuclear-Free Zones in Region Urged

BK2704110093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] The ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] secretary general, Mr. Hamid al-Gabid, has urged the Islamic ummah [community] to make concerted efforts for the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in South Asia, the Middle East, and Africa. In his report to the ICO foreign ministers conference in Karachi, he said this was essential to prevent nuclear proliferation on a nondiscriminatory and universal basis. Mr. Hamid al-Gabid welcomed the Pakistan proposal for convening of a five-nation conference on nuclear nonproliferation in South Asia. In another report to the ICO foreign ministers conference, Mr. Hamid al-Gabid urged the Islamic countries to continue to cooperate at the United Nations for achievement of the objective of strengthening security of nonnuclear-weapon states against theat or use of nuclear

The Gambian minister of external affairs, Mr. Omar Sey, has strongly condemned the destruction of Babri mosque at Ayodhya in India. He was speaking during the fourth plenary session of ICO foreign ministers conference in Karachi this morning. He also urged the international community to take appropriate measures to counter the Serbian aggression against Bosnia and said that in the absence of such determined and resolute actions, the Bosnian Muslims should be allowed to acquire arms to defend themselves.

The Jordanian foreign minister, Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir, called for elimination of weapons of mass destruction and establishment of nuclear-free zones, including the Middle East, to protect and preserve international peace and security. He also called for close cooperation and coordination among the Islamic countries to preserve their rights and interests and ensure a climate enabling them to work for the welfare of the ummah.

World League Appeals for Aid to Muslims in Bosnia

LD2504095793 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2210 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 24 Apr (SPA)—His Eminence Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz bin 'Abdallah-bin-Baz, general head of the directorates of religious research and ruling, preaching and guidance, and general head of the Islamic World League, issued the following call:

Thanks be to God, and His prayers be on His messenger, his kinsfolk and companions. The Islamic World League in Mecca calls upon the international community and Islamic governments to take the initiative in providing the Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina with military aid to help them defend themselves and to deter the aggression of the tyrannical Serbs.

Anyone who is endowed with the slightest knowledge of reality and a desire for justice is no doubt aware of the Serbs' injustice and their aggression against the Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina, and that they should be stopped. The heaviest of punishments should be heaped on them in order to deter them from (?committing further) tyranny, to make them abide by international conventions, and to save the Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina from the Serbs' tyranny and repeated shameless aggression, carried out with no observance of international covenants.

For God's sake, O ye Muslim rulers, support your brothers, stand by them, drive aggression away from them, and demand from the international community to use its influence to stop the Serbs from carrying out their

aggression and impose the heaviest of punishments on them so that they stop and abide by the international covenants which the Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina abide. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

Officials, Delegation Leave Amman for Talks in U.S.

Al-Husayni, 'Ashrawi Comment

JN2504163293 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Text] The Palestinian delegation to the bilateral peace talks arrived in Amman today from the occupied Arab territories to participate in the ninth round of negotiations in Washington. Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian side to the bilateral and multilateral peace talks, and Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation, made statements to our correspondent for political affairs, Salim 'Ali Dhiyab, stressing that the Palestinians expect the ninth round to be in harmony with the requirements and assurances given to the Palestinians.

[Begin recording] [Al-Husayni] Regarding the ninth round, all signs reaching us from the United States; the other cosponsor, Russia; and the Arab countries indicate that this round will be different and that there will be new Israeli and U.S. behavior. Based on our long experience, we will not allow ourselves to take such matters for granted and enter [the negotiations]. Therefore, we will, first of all, listen to the Israelis once again, and we then will decide how to behave and what can or cannot be proposed.

[Dhiyab] Dr. 'Ashrawi, in light of the promises made to you by the Americans, or any other party for that matter, do you expect certain things to take place with regard to the deportees?

['Ashrawi] We have the right to expect such things. First, those who were expelled in 1967 and those deportees who were deprived of returning to their homes, families, and lands as a result of illegal, arbitrary, and permanent decisions, should be returned. At this stage, we were able to secure an Israeli decision to return some of these deportees. This, in my view, is a decision refuting the legitimacy of deportation and should also prevent deportations in the future. There are other issues pertaining to the negotiating process and to questioning and deterring Israel from continuing its violations in the occupied territories. [end recording]

Al-Husayni on Israel

JN2604120393 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] In a statement before leaving Amman for Washington today Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Steering Committee for the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, said that he hopes Israel will submit substantial proposals during the negotiations and that the forthcoming round would not fail. Al-Husayni said that the Palestinian people are sincere, and insist on bringing about substantial progress and that discussions should deal with esential issues that could push ahead the peace process within the framework of international legitimacy and the UN resolutions.

Al-Husayni said he hopes Israel would adopt a similar stand and that the United States, in its turn, will assume its role as a full partner and insist on the implementation of the international resolutions for the settlement of the Palestinian cause.

'Ashrawi on Expectations

JN2604164493 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] The Palestinian delegation to the bilateral Arab-Israeli peace talks left Amman for Washington today to participate in the ninth round of negotiations, scheduled to begin tomorrow, Tuesday. Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, official spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation, told our correspondent for political affairs, Kassab Samawi, that this round constitutes an important turning point in the peace process:

[Begin recording] ['Ashrawi] Let us say that we expect this round to be a turning point. In other words, we have to place this negotiating process on its right path and in its right direction. There have been many mistakes in this process, and we have said over the past months that there should be a serious and radical treatment of the mistake that accompanied the process, prevented any progress, and allowed Israel to step up its repression and inhuman practices in the occupied territories. We hope that this round will be, as we were promised, a different one. Otherwise, in my view, there will be grave repercussions.

[Samawi] Have you rearranged the priorities that the Palestinian delegation will propose in light of the U.S. and Israeli assurances?

['Ashrawi] Our priorities are fixed, and we have always been insisting on them because they are related to firm Palestinian rights and land issues, including the control of the land, the geographical dimension, legislation, the linkage of the two phases—which means the applications of Resolution 242, the land-for-peace principle, and withdrawal. We also want this process to deter Israel and make it stop using the people as a hostage and tampering with Palestinian public opinion by way of pressure and its immoral, harsh behavior in the occupied territories.

[Samawi] Will the deportee issue be part of the negotiating process?

['Ashrawi] The deportee issue precedes the negotiating process, and it is a basic right. We have managed to bring about a breakthrough in the deportation by securing the

return of those who were expelled in 1967. This first group will be followed by other groups. [end recording]

Al-Husayni Expects Release of 30 Long-Term Deportees

TA2504142093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, has said that Israel promised the United States that upon the resumption of the talks on Tuesday it would announce the return of at least 30 deportees who were expelled prior to the intifadah. According to al-Husayni, the deportees will be allowed to return within a few days. He noted that they were picked from a list of 50 deportees the PLO submitted to the U.S. Administration.

Sa'ib 'Urayqat, the deputy head of the negotiating team, has meanwhile said that the Palestinian people had better lower their expectations about a breakthrough in the upcoming round of talks. According to him, the whole process remains unclear and, in fact, progress now depends on Israel's willingness to desist from its obstinacy.

In contrast, delegation spokesperson Hanan 'Ashrawi said that the current round of talks will be decisive.

PLO Statement on Resumption of Talks

LD2404205493 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 24 Apr 93

["Text" of communique issued by the PLO on 23 April; place not given]

[Text] Masses of our great people; custodians of independence, repatriation, and victory; blessed heroes of the intifadah and makers of the dawn of liberty: At this historically decisive moment, we greet you with pride and glory in the brave steadfastness and immense defiance which every Palestinian, man or woman, has shown on the holy soil of the homeland, in facing up to the most massive campaigns to blockade, starve, and terrorize us, in order to abort the objectives of the arrogant occupation which aims to smash our national will and undermine our solid unity.

Our struggling people have, over the last few weeks, proven that their determination to face up to vicious aggression and barbarous onslaught cannot flag and that their will to defeat the campaigns of aggression will remain firm, regardless of the extent of sacrifice or degree of violence and terror perpetrated against our towns and camps and against our workers, farmers, traders, and all the sons and daughters of our holy and pure soil.

The PLO and its negotiating team have faced up to the enemy's maneuvers and crimes against our people and to the hurdles which that enemy has placed in our way ever since the negotiations began. It has done this on the grounds that for us negotiations are a battlefield for confrontation and for the struggle waged by our people in order to secure their firm national rights and to regain their land and freedom.

The PLO and the negotiating team have stood, in the face of the criminal deportation measure of 400 Palestinian citizens, to demand of the whole world that it bear its responsibility in preserving international legitimacy by securing protection for our people under the occupation, and guaranteeing a suitable atmosphere for the continuation of the talks, away from the methods of suppression and terrorism.

The PLO has, with the support and backing of the fraternal and friendly forces, succeeded in obtaining the issue of Resolution 799 by the UN Security Council, and in mobilizing the backing and support stances for our struggling people, the deportees issue, and for all our people's rights which are guaranteed by international conventions, the Fourth Geneva Convention, and the human rights (?charter).

If Rabin's government continued its terrorist policy, resorted to maneuvering methods, and eluded compliance with international resolutions, relying on its strategic alliance with the United States and under its protection, the PLO has declared that the continuation of this Americana role constitutes a breach of the bases of the political process, takes this process to a dead end, and provides protection to the continuous Israeli violations of the simplest rights of the Palestinian and the bases of a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

It is our right to ask: Does international legitimacy have two standards or one—one standard against our people and nation, and one standard for the benefit of Israel?

Starting from all this, the PLO and its negotiating delegation worked toward the postponement of the resumption of the bilateral and multilateral peace talks for a few months—that is, within the framework of the unity of the stance with the sisterly Arab states participating in the political process, and on the basis of our people's steadfastness and unified national will, and the bases of international rules. This postponement was aimed at securing the resumption of the talks on a basis which guarantees the breaking of Rabin's government's terrorist attack and forces it to stop its deportation, oppression, terrorism, and iron-fist policy, and invites the co-sponsors of the conference to adopt a balanced policy which respects our people's rights and acknowledges their principal role in achieving a comprehensive peace in the whole region.

In line with this firm patriotic program, Palestinian policy has throughout all the stages of the struggle in the last months asserted that it is not possible to combine the peace negotiations with the continuation of terror and oppression. It has also asserted that it is not possible to attain basic progress in the political process while the Rabin government continues to pursue the methods of starvation, encirclement, siege, and deportation. This stand also stressed that uprooting the terror against our

people, providing genuine security and peace, and ending all forms of daily repression and torture will not be achieved without the complete departure of the occupation from the soil of our homeland. They also will not be achieved without the provision of international protection for our people as well as the bases of a just solution which guarantees for our people the exercise of their right to self-determination, independence, and return.

Palestinian policy also continued its persistent endeavor to unite Arab ranks and secure the necessary preliminaries, for the sake of restoring Arab solidarity. In this way the the Israeli occupation may be prevented from exploiting the current regional and international situation in order to continue its policy, which denies the bases of a just and lasting peace, violates our Islamic and Christian sanctities, and continues to commit the most ferocious forms of aggression and expansion, including the judaization of our holy Jerusalem, against our entire occupied soil.

The PLO called on the international forces and particularly the two peace conference chairmen to follow a balanced policy which would restore respect for the bases of the peace process and the UN Security Council resolutions, particularly Resolutions 242 and 338, ensure the return of all the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories, and guarantee the legitimate national and political rights of the Palestinian people.

Palestinian policy acted in light of this vision and the national and principled bases and it succeeded accordingly in reaching an agreement on the six points with the U.S. secretary of state. It also succeeded in reaching complete understanding with the fraternal Arab states, which have been taking part in the political process, over postponing the decision to participate in the talks until the completion of the contacts and the efforts to secure the removal of the obstacles in the way of resuming the peace process.

Through this firm line and the unified stand of the five Arab states during their numerous meetings, it was possible to reach a number of positive and advanced results which serve the interest of our struggle at present and will serve them in the future. This wise and resolute policy helped bring about a number of achievements which cannot be played down or erased. Foremost among these is the amendment of the Palestinian representation with the participation of the sons of Jerusalem, capital of an independent state of Palestine, in the framework of the delegation to the negotiations. These achievements also include stressing the need not to resort to the policy of deportation in the future and guaranteeing the return of long-term deportees, speeding up the return of those deported last December, promising an effective role for the two co-sponsors of the peace conference, alleviating the suffering of our people who are under the yoke of occupation, easing the siege imposed on them, reaffirming the need to make the negotiations a point of reference in all their stages and on our Palestinian and Arab land in accordance with Resolutions 242 and 338, and obtaining from the American sponsor a reiteration of its commitment to the bases of the peace process, including the principle of land-for-peace and the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people.

These positive achievements, brought about under the current regional and international circumstances, open the way to the relentless continuation of the struggle, with an unbending determination on the ground of heroic resistance and the holy intifadah and at the negotiating table. In this way we may guarantee further achievements and provide balanced bases which regulate the political process and protect the interests of our people and their rights and which put an end to the policy of arrogance, expansion, and deportation and the violation of Palestinian human rights, the national objectives of our people, and the resolutions of international legitimacy.

The PLO stresses that in order to honor the results reached so far the two co-sponsors are required firmly to oppose the Rabin government's attempts to empty these issues of their content or evade their practical implementation. Otherwise, these attempts will undermine the efforts made to obtain the resumption of the negotiation process which should move to the discussion of core issues. Such attempts will also lead to a continuation of the cycle of violence for which the Israeli occupation is held responsible, since it endeavors to perpetuate this cycle of violence with its repressive methods and the continuation of its operations of blockade, encirclement, and starvation and by cutting off the city of Jerusalem from the rest of the occupied Palestinian territories. This is a demonstration of weakness rather than strength. Our people are stronger than the conspiracy and the conspirators and stronger than the occupation, its oppression, and crimes.

The entire world and all the forces involved in the peace process have been aware that the Palestinian issue is the key to a just and balanced solution, that the PLO is the sole representative of the Palestinian people and leader of their struggle, and that all the attempts to bypass it, harm it, or undermine its sole representation would clash with the rigid wall which has been built by the unity of our great people and their rallying around their legitimate national rights.

The experiment of the bitter struggle has also confirmed the importance of restoring Arab solidarity. It has proved the existence of genuine and positive preludes to achieving this essential objective, in order to secure a just peace in the interest of our people, our nation, and all the international forces concerned and bring about stability in the region.

Arab solidarity is a shield for national and regional security. It serves the interest of international peace and a just solution to the struggle in the area. It also provides the bases of steadfastness and safeguards the necessary

backing for our people in the severe conditions through which they have been passing, in order to confront the policy of aggression, oppression, and violation of the holiest of our Islamic and Christian shrines in our holy Jerusalem and in all the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories.

Our people will continue their confrontations at all levels, fields, and fronts in our occupied soil and at the negotiating table. They will continue their steadfastness in standing up to all the conspiracies of the enemy, his tricks and maneuvers.

In this connection the PLO declares its great appreciation for the attitudes that have been demonstrated by a number of fraternal states in backing and supporting the steadfastness of our people and their rights and in confronting the methods of siege, harassment, and starvation which have been pursued by the Israeli occupation.

The PLO will continue its efforts to strengthen the coordination and joint action among the Arab states which are taking part in the peace process, proceeding from the premise of its eagerness to secure a comprehensive solution on all fronts and protect the Arab and Palestinian interests and rights.

The PLO calls on our great combatant people and all the gallant fighters of the intifadah for more unity and closing of the ranks. It calls on them to frustrate the wagers of the enemies that this unity will be harmed and to continue fully to back our Palestinian delegation in continuing its militant and fighting role on the negotiating front and to continue the path of struggle and jihad with all available capabilities until the strengthened victory of our people is at hand. There is no help except from God and if you help God he will help you and plant your feet firmly. Let us go forward. It is a revolution until victory.

'Arafat Address on Peace Talks Resumption

LD2504195493 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Brothers, we greet you and present you with the text of the message addressed yesterday by the brother president leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir Arafat] to the masses of our Palestinian people, a recording of which was broadcast in the courtyard of al-Azhar University in the town of Gaza.

Brother President Abu-'Ammar began his address by saying:

[Koranic verse omitted] My beloved brothers, family, and kinfolk: At this stage and in these circumstances of destiny through which our Palestinian people and the Arab nation are passing, and in these difficult international circumstances and the new world order in which political and geographical outlines throughout the world are being redrawn, we have to be or not to be. We were absent from the Sykes-Picot talks [after the World War I], and they tore apart our Arab country. We were absent at Yalta, and they divided our Arab country and declared the establishment of the State of Israel. Yalta was followed by Malta, so that an influx of immigrants would pour into our country from what was previously known as the Soviet Union and other states in an attempt to colonize our country and force us out of it. [Koranic verse omitted]

Concerning the Palestinian decision to participate in the peace negotiations, the brother president and leader Abu-'Ammar said: We go to the negotiations by a decision of our Palestine National Council which, despite the difficult circumstances and the unjust conditions, has decided that we be present at the negotiating table from which our Israeli enemies and others are trying to exclude us. Yes, we go to the negotiations because the one who is present on the political map today will be present on the geographical map tomorrow.

We go to these negotiations knowing that they are not easy negotiations. Yes, we go to the negotiations just as the Vietnamese did and as the Algerians did. Remember the first and second Evian talks with your Algerian brothers [in 1963]. Remember the five years of debates and negotiations of the Vietnamese in Paris until they secured what they wanted and entered Saigon. We go to these negotiations and with us go the brave resistance and the blessed intifadah.

The brother president pointed out that the Palestinian people have many options. He declared: We are facing an enemy that has strong support from the international forces, but we are stronger with our faith, our cause, and the just nature of our cause, stronger with the stones of our children, with our new generals.

Yes, we go to the negotiations and we have several options, and our enemy knows these options. Yes, our enemy knows these options. We are putting the soil in flames under the heels of the invaders. Yes, brothers: We want to get rid of occupation. We have had enough of tragedies. We are living with Gaza and its starvation, and with the besieged West Bank.

Yes, they want us to surrender to them with the negotiations, the resistance, and the intifadah. But we are lying in wait for them. Yes, brothers; we know that there is a great deal of pressure, a great deal of oppression, tyranny, and terror. But the determinaton of the people is greater, the will of the people is greater and the faith of the people is greater. [Koranic verse omitted]

Brother Abu-'Ammar stressed in his recorded message that there must be more strengthening of national action in the framework of national unity. He addressed the Palestinian people, saying: Brothers, beloved ones: I urge you to be united, united so as to stand up on the side of your brothers, each individual member of the delegation, and I say to those who represent the vanguard of the struggle at the negotiating table: Be patient, be patient, be very patient, and God will help you.

Brothers, beloved ones: We are together, as one, side by side until a new general of these new generals, the children of the stones, the flowers of the stones raise the flag of Palestine over the minarets of Jerusalem, the churches of Jerusalem, the walls of Jerusalem, the capital of the state of Palestine. [Koranic verse omitted]

In his recorded message, the brother president and leader Abu- 'Ammar expressed the determination of the Palestinian people, their decision to face up to challenge, and their convicton of victory. He stated: Brothers, beloved ones: Victory requires patience and he who wants to liberate his homeland must be patient. Our decision is to liberate our land and to use all the means of brave resistance: the blessed intifadah, the negotiations, information, from the falcons of Fath to the eagles, to 'Izz al-Din [dead Palestinian nationalist], to the people's party, to Hamas [Islamic Resistance], to the jihad, to the struggle, to Arabism, to democracy, to the people, to the Palestinian Liberation Front, to all these strugglers; our people is in one rank.

We differ and there is no shame in that because we believe in democracy and our democracy is deeprooted. I might differ from you, as far as views are concerned, but I am ready to die to defend the freedom of your views. This is the power of the Palestinian decision and the decision which has been taken is a decision of power, because it has faced an opposition. I am proud of that, I lead mighty and insurgent people, among whom are the new generals—the stone-throwing children.

With God's blessing we move forward, with God's help we move forward, and with God's will we move forward. This is a pledge from us to you and an oath from us to you, our heroic martyrs and we will tell them: the oath is the oath; together and side by side until triumph. [Koranic verse omitted]

Ten Factions Opposed to Talks Issue Statement

JN2504193993 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 25 Apr 93

["Political statement" issued by the 10 Palestinian factions opposed to Palestinian participation in Middle East peace talks; place and date not given]

[Text] Our heroic Palestinian masses in the homeland and in exile; our vibrant Arab and Islamic masses: The 10 Palestinian factions recently convened a meeting to debate the decision of the powers that hold sway over the PLO and the Palestinian negotiating team to rejoin the negotiations and the ninth round, which is set to open in Washington on 27 April. The 10 factions regard the decision as a threat to our national rights, the blessed intifadah, and the unity of our people. The decision also slights the sacrifices of the masses, our martyrs' blood, and the tribulations of the prisoners and deportees. The decision to rejoin the talks comes at a time when our people are engaged in a true battle against the U.S.-Zionist conspiracy that seeks to suppress the justice of our cause and our cause itself, with the terrorist Rabin government using iron-fisted Nazi policies on an unprecedented scale, and Zionist execution squads using live ammunition against our people, and occupation troops demolishing homes with antitank rockets and sealing off the West Bank and Gaza Strip in an attempt to starve our people and break their will and quell their intifadah.

Such tactics are emblematic of an insane policy calculated to force on the Palestinian people acquiescence of the so-called peacemaking process and the Zionist fait accompli. However, our people's steadfastness and sacrifices will frustrate the dreams and the schemes of the U.S.-Zionist alliance. The Palestinian team's consent to attend the talks amounts to a connivance that furthers Zionist interests and threatens to split Palestinian ranks, exacerbate differences, sow the seeds of dissension, and thus put the intifadah at risk of being quashed.

The 10 Palestinian factions declare that the negotiating team and its backers—the powers holding sway over the PLO—represent only a tiny minority of the Palestinian people, and are not credible representatives of our cause and our people. Any agreement that team may sign will not be binding on our people. Moreover, the negotiating team and the powers holding sway over the PLO will be held accountable for whatever negative consequences our cause and intifadah experience as a result of the negotiating team rejoining the negotiating process.

Concerned for strengthening our national unity and stepping up the intifadah, we call on our mujahid people not to be dragged behind the provocations of the settlement brokers, and to foil the Zionist enemy plans. The enemy is wagering on a split in national unity by fabricating flimsy battles overshadowing our blessed intifadah, which is our only option to confront occupation. We also call on our vibrant and struggling masses and forces to support the 10 factions' alliance and promote its political performance, considering this an essential demand for the confrontation of plots against our cause. The 10 Palestinian factions promise the masses of our people and Arab and Islamic nation to persist in the jihad and struggle toward the toppling of all liquidatory projects and conspiracies plotted by the Zionist enemy, and pushed through a minority outside the national mainstream.

The 10 factions underscore the need to upgrade joint militant action by escalating all forms of jihad and struggle, led by armed struggle. They announce the following activities:

First: Mass rallies in the homeland's cities and villages, refugee camps, and universities to signal opposition to the negotiations and to expose liquidatory conspiracies.

Second: Protest marches by families and children of the deportee mujahidin, along with other members of the community, to homes of delegates [to the peace talks] and their so-called information headquarters.

Third: Popular parleys and forums at Palestinian communities in exile.

Fourth: Observance of 27 April 1993 as a day of general strike and intensified resistance to occupation in Palestine, coupled with activities by our Palestinian people in exile.

Down with the conspiracies targeting our sacred cause and our militant people; glory and victory to the valiant intifadah; glory to the martyrs, and freedom to prisoners and detainees; immediate, en masse repatriation for the deportees.

Factions in 'Ayn al-Hulwah Call Strike To Protest Talks

NC2704063393 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] The 10 Palestinian factions in 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp have called for a general strike today to denounce and protest the Palestinian delegation's participation in the bilateral talks.

Algeria

Security Forces Kill 4 More 'Terrorists' at El Harrach

LD2604214893 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Excerpt] [passage omitted; four terrorists killed in operation in El Harrach 25 April] Today, resuming the same operation, the special units killed four other terrorists who were hiding inside the villa on the ground floor and were holding two women hostages.

Three of the terrorists tried to escape, so they were eliminated. One of them hid behind one of the hostages for protection but the security forces killed him without the hostage being harmed at all. The other hostage managed to slip out of their grasp, leaving one fundamentalist inside the villa. After many attempts by the security forces to lure this man outside, explosives were used to blow up the building.

That is how the last terrorist was eliminated. He was identified as Ben Yattou Othman, known as Djamal Battoir who was behind the assassination of the deceased Karima Belhadj, according to confirmations by the security men at the scene.

The security forces seized three Kalashnikovs, four empty magazines and three automatic pistols.

Security Operation Nets 40 Terrorists East of Algiers

LD2304133293 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] East of the capital, Algiers, units of the Army, gendarmerie, and security forces carried out a combing operation on the night of Monday-Tuesday in the Eucalyptus, Cheraba, and Baraki regions. This led to the arrest of 40 terrorists.

Oran Special Court Sentences 12 Conspirators

LD2604125893 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] Yesterday evening Oran special court issued jail sentences against 12 people accused of conspiracy against state security and setting up armed groups. Details on the issue with Hassani Houari:

[Houari] These jail sentences were as follows: 10 years imprisonment for defendant Bakhti Anas, alias Anas El Afghani; eight years imprisonment for the two defendants Zermouni Benyounes and Chaoui Boudghene Abdallah. The court also sentenced Tazgharet Ahmed, Naar Lahcene, and Kherif Abdelhak to three years imprisonment. It sentenced Derhab Sid Ahmed and Bendjelloul Lakhdar to six years imprisonment. As far as Kerroumi Cheikh is concerned, the special court sentenced him to four years imprisonment. As for the defendant Bouziane he was sentenced to three years imprisonment.

The special court acquitted two defendants. In addition to the jail sentences, the court ordered the seizure of all documents and confiscated items and money and some defendants were deprived of their civil liberties for five years. The court also sentenced two defendants, who have thus far escaped justice—they are Gambaz Mohamed Lamine and Abdelaziz Ali—to 20 years imprisonment. It is worth mentioning that the prosecutor had requested death sentences for the defendants who are at large and life sentences for four defendants.

HSC Continuing Dialogue; Consulative Council To Be Expanded

LD2604140893 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] The dialogue organized by the Higher State Council [HSC] with the political and social forces is to enter its next stage soon by meetings with national political personalities. A reliable source pointed out that the dialogue will continue until its objective, which is represented in cleansing the national situation, is reached. Over to you Louiza Hadj Moussa.

[Moussa] The aim of the dialogue is to reach the point of controlling the democratic course and entrenching a sound pluralist system [word indistinct]. The dialogue, as affirmed by the same source, also aims at the participation of all patriotic Algerians who believe in the future of their country, with the exception of those who chose arms. The HSC defined three main aims which are: consolidating security, entrenching a real democratic system, and starting the economic recovery.

In the context of the first stage of the dialogue, it was proposed to enlarge the National Consultative Council so that it will be the national conference for managing the transitional stage, as was requested by some political parties. According to the same source, political parties and civil society will be represented in the enlarged National Consultative Council, which will have the power to pass laws.

The second aim of the transitional stage will be represented in bringing together the economic, political, and security conditions which are necessary for organizing real presidential and legislative elections. The strategy of the HSC seeks ultimately at achieving the expression of people's will without [?changing] the state foundations.

Lawsuit Brought Against Newspaper Head, Party Official

LD2404220393 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Text] The Public Prosecutor issued a press communique today which said the following:

Mr. Hachemi Cherif made grave statements in an interview to the newspaper EL WATAN on 24 April 1993 in which he said: The arrest of Abdelhamid Ben Zine was not an innocent legal procedure but a political action and the only explanation which can be made is that the aim behind his arrest was to assassinate him in prison.

Such an accusation, which is simultaneously shocking, shameful, and unfounded, and is an excessive move beyond his status, challenges the judiciary, constitutes unacceptable abuse, and is considered as defamation against the judiciary. The Public Prosecutor's Office has thus decided to put an end to these abuses by instigating a lawsuit, which is dictated by the strict implementation of the law, against Messrs Hachemi Cherif and Omar Belhouchet, the director of the aforementioned newspaper.

Cherif Arrested, Released

LD2604172993 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] Hachemi Cherif, secretary general of the al-Tahaddi movement, Omar Belhouchet, director of the EL WATAN daily, and Cherif Ouazzani, the newspaper's operator, yesterday received the benefit of temporary release after being accused by the investigating judge at the Algiers court of infringing on national unity and state security and instigating crime.

EL WATAN was held responsible for publishing a passage from an interview with Hachemi Cherif in which he stated that the arrest of ALGER REPUBLICAIN Director Abdelhamid Benzine was not an innocent judicial measure but a political action.

Egypt

Information Minister Relays Mubarak Remarks on Security

NC2604151793 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1245 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Remarks by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif following President Mubarak's meeting with commanders and officers of Central Military District on 26 April—recorded]

[Excerpts] President Mubarak's meeting with the Armed Forces commanders and officers was within the framework of the celebrations marking the Sinai return anniversary. The president wished Egypt, its people, and its Armed Forces every progress and prosperity, indicating that the Armed Forces are the best institution from which commanders who shoulder responsibility graduate. [passage omitted]

On the issue of corruption, Mubarak noted that there is no such thing as a society of angels. We are a human society. However, there is less corruption in Egypt than elsewhere in the world. Those who speak about corruption in Egypt must reform themselves first. Corruption in Egypt is publicized; it is not covered up. Egypt lives in a free and open society within the framework of democracy and the freedom of the press. If Egypt was a closed society, we would not have heard about a single case of corruption.

Mubarak said in democratic states everything is clear and declared. Egypt is part of the democratic world. He added we do not permit any coverup of corruption. We do not abet or cover up any corruption, even if the person involved is my closest aide. [passage omitted]

Mubarak said real Islam exists in Egypt where Muslims and Christians live. Egypt is and will remain the cradle of religions. Egypt has the holy al-Azhar. Islam, a religion of tolerance and noble principles, rejects the custodianship of an extremist and deviant minority over society. He added that with force and terrorism they seek to reach power. They are not religious and have no connection with religion. The president noted that reaching power is legitimate for any political force and has its channels defined by the democratic system based on conviction, argument, winning the masses, and obtaining the citizens' votes, and not by repression, bloodshed, and terrorizing society by a deviant minority.

Mubarak pointed an accusing finger at Iran, which claims to be Islamic. The Iranians want to control the Arab nation. They have the sick idea that they can control Egypt. They have not concealed this but have said Egypt must fall and President Mubarak is the obstacle to this Iranian advance.

Mubarak said we are lying in wait for them. We will not weaken. Egypt's interest is preeminent. They export terrorism and exploit the group that was trained in Afghanistan. However, they will fail because the people—youths and old people, women and men—stand like one man, rejecting terrorism and rejecting that mean attempt to strike at Egypt and its people and at its future, economy, and its means of livelihood.

The president said those who opened fire in the attempt to assassinate the information minister have been arrested. They belong to the group that was trained in Afghanistan. Orders are issued to them from abroad. They do not realize the gravity of acting against their homeland and striking at its national, economic, and political march. [passage omitted]

The president said: I tried hard to relieve the burdens on citizens and reduce them so that they might bear them. I could not avert the side effects of the bitter medicine used to reform the Egyptian economy so that life could continue. He noted: We have problems that we do not hide and slum neighborhoods that suffer from poor services; we do not deny this. But we are working seriously to raise the standard of these neighborhoods and to improve services, whether in Cairo, Alexandria, al-Minya, Asyut, or 10 other governorates, at a preliminary cost of around 2.6 billion pounds. We will secure this amount no matter how we rearrange our situation to

improve the standard of these slum neighborhoods—the most serious result of the economic reform's side effects.

President Mubarak said economic reforms will continue, supported by a wary democratic process and enlightened public that can distinguish between the good and the bad. He warned about all those who try to use religion as a cover to commit acts that are incompatible with legitimacy and law. He said: We must preserve Islam's noble values and image. I regret that those who were arrested in connection with a theft near Cairo Airport wanted to connect themselves with Islam; this greatly harms Islam.

President Mubarak said: At each stage, we try to achieve a reasonable and acceptable balance between salaries and prices, although salaries amount to 25 percent of state revenues. This poses a very negative danger and a heavy burden to the Egyptian economy. And it complicates things each time an attempt is made to raise salaries to improve the living standard of the broad base of workers.

The president concluded: The economy is improving, by every standard. Were it not for the terrorist acts that greatly affected tourism and other areas, we would be taking better and larger strides. He added: We still subsidize service agencies to the tune of 3 billion pounds, 1.4 billion pounds of which is devoted to railroads, 300 million to Cairo transport, and 50 million to Alexandria transport, in addition to other services.

On jobs and unemployment in Egypt, the president said: In 1982- 83, a plan was devised to secure 4.035 million jobs in 10 years. Some 3 million jobs were secured. We must secure 870,000 more new jobs.

The president said: We cannot increase the number of government jobs; that will cause administrative and economic destruction. But we must create new job opportunities in new spheres; we are trying to achieve this.

The president remarked that the population increase is our most serious future problem, noting that the entire society must adhere to the small-family model as a way of life. He said that Egypt's population in December 1992 was estimated at 59 million. It is expected to reach 71 million in 2000 and 91 million in 2013 if the current rate of increase continues. In contrast there were only 2 million Egyptians in 1800. He noted that in the past 10 years, the population rose by 13 million—the equivalent of the population of several small nations.

Referring to the Hala'ib issue, the president emphasized that Hala'ib is Egyptian territory and pointed out that whenever Sudan suffers a difficult domestic crisis, the Sudanese regime brings this issue to the fore. He added: This happened in the past during the terms of presidents 'Abd-al-Nasir and al-Sadat. It is being repeated now during my term. On behalf of the Egyptian people and Armed Forces, I reject all attempts to encroach on Egypt's territorial integrity and sovereignty.

Commenting on ties with Sudan, the president said: Egypt supported Sudan's recent revolution. It used its international and Arab contacts to assist al-Bashir. Despite their insolent claims, I wish to declare that we will never go to war against Sudan or attack any Sudanese citizen. The Egyptians and the Sudanese are one nation. However, the Sudanese regime has overlooked this point and disregarded the constants in the Egyptian-Sudanese relationship.

The president continued: The situation in Hala'ib is stable. Instead of trying to understand the facts about Hala'ib and handle the issue thoughtfully and reasonably, every day they make false allegations to cover up their failures at home and their deteriorating domestic conditions. They alleged, in the words of their foreign minister, that Egypt stopped an oil tanker crossing the Suez Canal. They imagine that the Sudanese people will believe that Egypt is the cause behind the soaring gasoline prices in Sudan. Egypt has never done and will never do anything that will adversely affect the Sudanese people's daily life. The facts are different.

Finally, they alleged that Egypt was planning a coup d'etat in Sudan involving training, the transfer of armed forces and planes, and the use of weapons and explosives. All this was the product of their fertile imagination and was announced by their regime's leader on their radio.

The president announced: We have nothing to do with this. We have never and we will never participate in any action directed against Sudan. The opposite is true.

They are training terrorists and exporting terrorism to Egypt. We submitted a clear-cut memorandum and we have documents indicating that Sudan is training terrorists and exporting terrorism to the region's states. But we did not respond to this because we are concerned about the future and interests of the Sudanese people.

We are aware that any difficult situation the Sudanese people might face will have grave consequences for their daily lives. We reject this. He pointed out that the Sudanese regime is unaware of its isolation and its image before its Arab brothers since becoming an exporter of terrorism to a number of fraternal Arab countries.

The president expressed his surprise and regret for the fiction that has been reported about Egypt's participation or role in changing the ruling regime in Sudan. The president said: We do not participate in such actions and I challenge anyone to present a shred of proof that Egypt has played any role in a coup attempt in Sudan. It is a weak regime and no one needs to draw up such fabricated plans or participate in causing its collapse.

The change in Sudan is contingent on the will of the people of Sudan. Egypt does not interfere in the affairs of any Arab or neighboring country or in the affairs of any other state. The president added: I feel sorry for the condition of the Sudanese people and for the degree of collapse affecting the life and standard of living of the Sudanese people.

The president noted: They claim that they have a surplus in cereals. It would make me happy if this were true and real. It would also make me happy if the Sudanese people, and not only the officials there, would benefit from this surplus.

The president said: As part of the daily campaigns of haughtiness launched by some of the Sudanese media against the Egyptian people, government, and president, these media, which are only heard and read by the Sudanese people, claimed that Egypt participated in the alleged coup. Moreover, al-Bashir himself started to talk about this plan.

The president said: Egypt is not a state that engineers coup attempts nor is it a state that hatches assassination attempts or a state that devises explosions. We are more eager than the Sudanese officials themselves to defend the Sudanese people.

On Egypt's relations with the United States, Mubarak explained the outcome of his visit to the United States and Europe. He said Egypt's relations with the United States are good and are based on mutual respect. We do not permit any decision or opinion to be imposed on us. His recent visit was successful by all measurements. The position of the United States and President Clinton is excellent in understanding all issues. He noted that U.S. military and civilian aid to Egypt will not be reduced.

On Egypt's Arab and international relations, Mubarak noted that Egypt's international relations are excellent. Egypt's Arab relations are very good and are based on full understanding with the Arab states. There is full cooperation, understanding, and exchange of views.

On the demand for the immediate sentencing of terrorists who confess to their crimes, the president said sentencing is the jurisdiction of the courts. The courts in Egypt are just. Any citizen who commits an offense must stand before a judge. He will be punished if he committed a wrong deed and he will be acquitted if was innocent.

Mubarak noted that military courts deal with cases that endanger society. Terrorism cases, which require quick hearings, are referred to military courts. Military courts have proven their credibility. Ordinary courts are overwhelmed with a huge number of cases.

Mubarak said we deal with terrorism through comprehensive confrontation. There is no leniency with terrorism. He noted that Iran does not want Egypt to be calm and stable. Iran wants to control the region, but it will not undermine Egypt and will not be able to achieve its goals. The Egyptian people are vigilant. The Egyptian leadership applies the law without infringing on democracy or abandoning the principles of justice. He said he will not hesitate to confront anything that undermines the stability of the Egyptian people, who put their trust in him.

Interior Minister Rejects Mediation, Favoritism

NC2504143593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1336 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 25 Apr (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has stressed that the law applies to everyone without distinction and that no one is above the law.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, the interior minister said that all the citizens are Egypt's sons and there is no distinction between them except for how they work to benefit Egypt.

He urged honest Egyptian citizens to stand firmly and strongly and eliminate extremism and terrorism in defense of the beloved homeland and in protection of Egypt, which has been blessed by God Almighty throughout the ages.

The minister stressed the government's desire and efforts to provide jobs for Egyptian youth.

Al-Alfi said he will work with other ministers to provide jobs for youth at all sites so they can live with dignity and so that everyone can feel that they are living in their homeland, which they protect and defend to their last drop of blood.

The interior minister added that he has issued strict orders to all police districts and posts that officers and soldiers should receive and treat citizens properly, regardless of why the citizens have come to their districts and posts.

He stressed that there is no room for mediation or favoritism. He said: I have no time for mediation, regardless of who conducts it.

On fighting corruption, the interior minister said that the department in charge of public funds will act very firmly and decisively to restore funds that are stolen or unfairly seized so that the citizens can be assured that there are no circles above the law. He added that revenue officers will carry out their duties as directed so that the government can receive its due and thus provide services as best it can.

On combating drugs, the interior minister said that the police are combating drugs firmly to stop this threat to the health of our youth and other citizens.

Islamic Mediation Committee Meeting, Message Reported

NC2304183593 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 20 Apr 93 pp 1, 9

[Report by Ahmad al-Siyufi, accompanied by a photograph of renowned Islamic scholar Shaykh Muhammad Mutawalli al-Sha'rawi]

[Text] The Islamic mediation committee [lajnat al-wasatah al-islamiyah] has continued its efforts and meetings despite the prime minister's statement [denying

contacts between the government and extremists], which frustrated some people and constituted a setback. The mediation committee is still trying to foil any scheme designed to frustrate its mediation efforts. These efforts aim to prevent bloodshed and remove tension.

The committee held a meeting last Saturday evening at Da'wat al- Haqq Mosque in al-Duqqi, attended by 18 Islamic ulema and thinkers. The agenda consisted of the following:

1. A review of the contacts held with officials.

2. Discussing what has been published by newspapers and news agencies.

3. Discussing the plan of action for the coming period.

4. Sending two messages, one to the interior minister and another to imprisoned Islamic group leaders.

The message to the minister was not sent because he was dismissed. The second message was sent to imprisoned Islamic leaders through the committees that were formed following the last meeting. The message said:

"The country has been exposed to a wave of violence, and people have been struck by fear for their lives and property. This has prompted the enemies of Islam everywhere to defame Islam and depict this religion as one of terror and fear, whereas it is a religion of tolerance and mercy. We have begun, with God's help, an attempt to extricate the country from this ordeal and to clear God's religion of the blemishes marring it.

"We believe that every zealous Muslim will spare no effort to cooperate with us to ensure the success of this noble Islamic mission.

"The entire world is watching us now to see what we will do, whether we will succeed, and whether the champions of Islam will respond to Islam's call for peace. We have much confidence in you in view of the zeal we have seen in you for God's religion."

AL-SHA'B has learned that this message will be sent to 'Abbud al- Zumur, Karam Zuhdi, Najih Ibrahim, and 'Isam Darbalah. The committee is still waiting for responses from the Interior Ministry and the other state institutions that want to study the situation.

Public Transportation Antiterror Search Teams Formed

NC2604130193 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 21 Apr 93 p 1

[Report by Muhammad Khalifah]

[Text] Cairo Governor 'Umar 'Abd-al-Akhir has ordered the formation of three special teams to combat terror on public transport. The teams will search bags and parcels carried by public transport users. Engineer Yusuf Mahmud, director of the Public Transportation Agency, has called on the public to cooperate with the search teams protecting them from terrorism.

Fundamentalists Kill Coptic Student, Wound Another

NC2404170793 Paris AFP in English 1645 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Asyut, Egypt, April 24 (AFP)—Muslim fundamentalists stabbed to death a teenage Christian Coptic student and seriously wounded another in the Upper (southern) Egyptian city of Asyut, an extremist stronghold, police said.

They said the incident occurred when three men lay in wait for students who were leaving their technical school and attacked two with knives, killing one and wounding the other before fleeing.

The assailants were clad in the long white shirtdresses usually worn by fundamentalists, said police.

The death brings to 28 the number of Copts killed by Muslim fundamentalists in Upper Egypt since a wave of violence against the government, Copts and tourists erupted in March 1992.

The identities and ages of the Copts were not available.

The injured Copt identified one of the attackers as a known militant member of the clandestine al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah group. [passage omitted]

Police Officer Stabbed in Asyut; Dragnet Under Way

NC2304114293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1017 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Asyut, Upper Egypt, 23 Apr (MENA)—A 30-year-old noncommissioned police officer named Salah Salim from Asyut security force has sustained penetrating stomach wounds when an unidentified man stabbed him with a knife.

The police officer has been taken to a hospital, where he underwent urgent surgery. Security agencies are carrying out the necessary measures to arrest the culprit and the prosecution has begun an investigation.

Police Rule Out Terrorism in Attack on 2 Policemen

NC2404155393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1435 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Text] Qina, 24 Apr (MENA)—Two policemen in Qina were wounded when unknown assailants fired at them today. The wounded are Captain Hossam Fawzi al-Baghdadi of the Farshut intelligence unit, and Sergeant Major Yusri Salim al-Qinawi.

Capt. al-Baghdadi was on patrol duty in the town when he saw a suspicious mini-truck. He tried to stop it but one of the passengers fired at him, injuring him in the left leg. Serg. Maj. al-Qinawi was hit by a bullet in the back of the head. They were both transported to the

hospital. Security agencies have seized the vehicle and arrested one of the assailants, who proved to be the son of the vehicle's owner.

A responsible security source ruled out the possibility that the attack is a terrorist action, saying that it is likely that the motives are criminal.

Assistant Interior Minister Major General Mahmud 'Antar and Qina security director went to the scene, where police forces began a dragnet to arrest the rest of those in the vehicle and who escaped following the attack. Police investigators have started working on the case.

Mubarak Appoints New Air Defense Commander

NC2604121793 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, supreme commander of the Armed Forces, issued a presidential decree today appointing Staff Major General Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman Abu-Talib commander of the Air Defense Forces.

Biography of New Commander

NC2604192593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1746 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 26 Apr (MENA)—Staff Major General Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman Sulayman Abu-Talib, the new commander of the air defense forces, graduated from the military academy in 1959. He has held a number of leading posts, including commander of an air defense brigade, commander of an air defense division, and then chief of the missile and artillery units at the air defense command. He next took over as chief of the air defense operations branch and then became chief of staff of the air defense forces.

Maj. Gen. Abu-Talib was born in 1937. He took all the air defense specialization classes and the class of commanders and chief of staff. He also attended courses at the Higher Military College at Nasir's Military Academy. He was involved in the Yemen wars, the 1967 war, the war of attrition, and the October 1973 war.

He holds several medals and orders of merit, including a service medal, a Liberation of Kuwait medal, and a training medal.

Mubarak-King Husayn Summit Expected 'Soon'

PM2604085493 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 23 Apr 93 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Egyptian-Jordanian Summit Expected Soon"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Political sources expect a summit to be held soon between Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and King Husayn of Jordan.

The sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the meeting falls within the framework of Egypt's eagerness to intensify consultations to push the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations forward. The sources expect the meeting to be held in Cairo during a working visit by the Jordanian monarch.

The sources pointed out that Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa's talks during a lightning visit to the Jordanian capital and the message which he conveyed to King Husayn from President Mubarak are a prelude to the meeting, which is prompted by the current conditions which the Arab region is experiencing.

The well-informed sources said that the Egyptian-Jordanian talks will focus on two principal issues: The first is the issue of peace in the Middle East and the fixed principles in Arab positions. The second concerns the Arab efforts being exerted at bilateral and collective level to mend the rift in Arab relations in the light of the Arab reconciliation initiative submitted by Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid at the league council's meeting recently.

Afghan, Pakistan Connection to Terror Viewed

NC2604142693 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 9 Apr 93 p 9

[Report by Kamal 'Adil from Cairo]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Exchanges are continuing among Egypt, Algeria, and Tunisia to coordinate efforts and collect information about the international organization linking Arab fundamentalist groups with Iran. Algerian authorities have found documents and evidence proving Iran's involvement in aiding Algerian fundamentalist groups. According to these documents, Ahmad Zadeh, an Iranian intelligence official in Ahvaz, has recently been put in charge of five camps in various Iranian cities in which 6,320 Arab extremists, including some 1,400 Egyptians, receive training.

Egypt hopes to stop the spread of terrorism by cutting it at the source, or in the words of a high-ranking Egyptian official "grabbing the tentacle of the octopus before catching it."

AL-DIYAR has learned that the Egyptian Government has placed tight surveillance on its borders with Libya and Sudan. Egypt has recently signed a security agreement with Libya for the exchange of suspects. With these measures, Egypt hopes to prevent or at least reduce the infiltration of extremists into the country from Libya.

Libya has recently handed Egyptian authorities an extremist who had established a center in Banghazi for liaison with Egyptian extremists in Khartoum and Algeria. The Egyptian authorities also arrested 23 people entering the country at al-Sallum border point and is pressing charges against them for a connection with one of the most violent organizations, the "Afghanistan Revolutionaries" [thuwwar afghanistan].

The Egyptian Government is acting over a wider geographic area in its efforts to cut off assistance to the fundamentalists. Investigations carried out by the higher state and military prosecution bodies show that Kabul and Peshawar are the hottest centers of fundamentalist threat to Egypt. Two of the top leaders of the al-Jihad organization live in Peshawar: Muhammad Shawqi al-Islambuli, who is under a death sentence in Egypt, and Ayman al-Zawahiri.

A third leader of al-Jihad, Tal'at Qasim, lives in Kabul. According to security sources, Qasim has reached agreement with the pro-Iranian Shiite Unity Party to train Egyptian extremists on guerrilla warfare, planting time bombs, and forging documents, identity cards, and passports.

Egyptian security sources reported that Tal'at Qasim telephoned Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman on 1 April and invited him to come and stay in the northern areas of Afghanistan, which are under the control of the Shiite Unity Party, and take control of his contacts with all his followers everywhere in the world. The sources added that Shaykh 'Umar postponed a decision on this proposal until the outcome of the two cases in which he is a suspect, the first one concerning his role in the bombing of the World Trade Center in New York where his name was mentioned, and the second concerning his role in inciting defendants to kill tourists in Cairo and Upper Egypt.

Additionally, the sources reported that Pakistan has responded to Arab demands to deport extremists staying on its territory. Their number is estimated to be 3,000 persons who publish newspapers and magazines sold in various areas and who have very good communications systems.

Egyptian authorities were surprised a few weeks ago when statements were faxed from a post office in Peshawar to foreign news agencies in Cairo threatening to expand the scope of the campaign to include strikes against foreign investments in Egypt. This prompted these authorities to ask the presidential office to intervene with the Pakistani Government to stop Arab extremists from moving or making contacts.

On the other hand, Egyptian security authorities have confirmed that Egyptian extremists in Kabul have set up economic and commercial enterprises to ensure a constant income for financing their supporters in Egypt. The sources added that the warring Afghan organizations competed to win the Arab extremists over to their side in the battles that raged in the past nine months and that the extremists benefited from the monies they received from the Afghan organizations to set up a network of commercial enterprises that will be difficult to dismantle, particularly as Afghan elements helped in setting up these enterprises so as to provide them with legal cover. These enterprises currently enjoy the patronage of Prime Minister Hekmatyar despite the violent criticism that Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani has leveled against their owners.

The security authorities believe that it is easy to transfer funds from Afghanistan to Egypt through a third party, especially the Islamic countries of the former Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, or Sudan. The security authorities noted that the brother of Shaykh Hasan al-Turabi, leader of the Sudanese National Front, has tried to enter Egypt, but when Egyptian authorities at Cairo Airport banned him, he returned to Khartoum from where he contacted a number of Sudanese fundamentalists residing in the Egyptian capital. Egyptian authorities arrested 18 of them on the charge of financing and supporting the violent acts that took place recently.

All this means that Cairo is active in chasing extremism and in attempting to eliminate it in Egypt, Kabul, and Peshawar.

Pakistan Urged To Return 'Arab Terrorists'

NC2604053393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2205 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 25 Apr (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AHRAM has said that Pakistani authorities are duty-bound to return Arab terrorists to their home countries unless those countries reject them. Otherwise, it would be absurd to release them to continue their crimes. In its Monday editorial, the paper says deporting these conspirators, who use bases in Pakistani territory, primarily along the borders with Afghanistan and Peshawar, to their countries for trial would be the first step toward consolidating international cooperation to combat regional and international terrorism.

AL-AHRAM said it was surprised that Pakistani authorities have not yet decided how to deal with these vagabond adventurers. Pakistani authorities should either deport them to their home countries, which have appealed to Pakistan to hand them over because they are wanted, transport them to other countries where they wish to live, leave them on their own so they can continue their subversive and conspiratorial plans. The paper warned that now that Pakistan responded to international demands and complaints about terrorists living there and that the terrorists now know of these demands, they may try to sneak out of Pakistan or flee to safer places in Pakistan before leaving.

Envoys Start African Tour, Carry Mubarak Messages

Ambassador Leaves for Tunis

NC2404052093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1310 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 23 Apr (MENA)—Ambassador Shafi'i 'Abd-al-Hamid left Cairo for Tunis today at the start of an African tour that will comprise Tunisia, Algeria, Mauritania, Mali, Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso, and Niger. He will deliver messages from President Husni Mubarak to these countries' leaders.

Mubarak's messages invite these leaders to the African summit slated to be held in Cairo on 28 July. They also explain Egypt's stand on a number of African issues and its desire to ensure the success of this summit and serve common African interests.

Ambassador Bound for Nairobi

NC2604061993 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] Ambassador Samy Haybah left Cairo for Nairobi last night on the start of a 25-day tour of eight Nile basin and East African countries as an envoy of President Mubarak.

Speaking before his departure, Haybah said he is carrying messages from President Mubarak to the leaders of Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, Malawi, Djibouti, and the Comoro Islands to invite them to the African summit that will be held in Cairo on 28 June. Haybah noted President Mubarak's interest in the African issues that will be discussed at the summit in view of the international changes and problems facing Africa. He added that during the summit, Egypt will advance ideas to avoid conflicts and solve problems that may arise among African states peacefully.

Envoys Travel to Other States

NC2504163193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 25 Apr (MENA)—Ambassador Wafa' Hijazi left Cairo today on a two-week African tour that will take him to Zimbabwe, Namibia, Botswana, Mauritius, Madagascar, Mozambique, and Zambia. He will deliver messages from President Husni Mubarak to the leaders of these countries inviting them to the African summit, which will be held in Cairo on 28 June.

Ambassador Ahmad Hitatah also left Cairo for Lagos on the first leg of a two-week African tour to deliver similar messages from Mubarak to the leaders of Nigeria, Mozambique [as received], Benin, Togo, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, and Gabon.

The messages deal with the most important African issues and bilateral ties and ways of strengthening them in all fields.

Ambassador 'Imran al-Shafi'i also left with Mubarak's messages to the leaders of Angola, Congo, Zaire, the Central African Republic, and Chad.

The messages invite the leaders to the African summit and review African issues and bilateral relations and ways of promoting them.

Musa on Contacts To Promote Peace, African Summit

NC2404062693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2150 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 23 Apr (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has asserted that Egypt continues to hold contacts with the Arab parties, the United States, and Israel to promote the peace process so that the coming round of talks can be positive and fruitful rather than negotiations for the sake of negotiations.

In an interview with AL-AHRAM to be published Saturday, Musa said that this year must see results from the negotiations, adding that the general atmosphere of the negotiations must be suitable to allow for progress in the peace process. Musa denied any split among the cordon states, noting that these states agreed to request a delay for a certain time to enable the parties, particularly the Palestinians, to make up their mind and discuss the matter with their leaders.

Musa noted that the meeting of the Islamic states foreign ministers to be held in Karachi on Sunday will discuss a paper submitted by some member states on the issue of terrorism and its effects of blaming Islam for encouraging terrorism.

On the main topics on the agenda of the African summit to be held in Cairo on 28 June, the foreign minister said several delicate African issues will be discussed at the summit, including Africa's deteriorating economy, the situation in southern Sudan, Angola, Mozambique, Liberia, South Africa, and Somalia.

Asked if there is anything new in the ongoing efforts to settle inter-African conflicts, Musa pointed out that he supports the OAU secretary general's recommendations in this respect, adding that such a mechanism must be adopted. The foreign minister emphasized that the Horn of Africa is linked and close to the Middle East and that security there is extremely important for Egypt. He added: We cannot allow any tampering with the people of that region because we are one area.

Economic Delegation Leaves for Talks With IMF

NC2604123193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1108 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 26 Apr (MENA)—Central Bank Governor Dr. Salah Hamid left Cairo for New York at noon today on a visit of several days at the head of an Egyptian delegation to talks with the IMF in Washington.

Cabinet Affairs Minister Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd, who is a member of the delegation, said he will meet tomorrow with Paris Club officials to discuss an agreement. He added that the delegation will then leave for Washington to hold a new round of talks with the IMF to prepare for signing the second agreement with it. The new agreement, he added, would result in the waiver of 15 percent of Egypt's foreign debts. The delegation also includes Dr.

Yusuf Butrus Ghali, minister of state at the cabinet; and Finance Minister Dr. Muhammad al-Razzaz, who is scheduled to leave Cairo for New York on Wednesday to join the delegation.

Hungarian Parliamentary Delegation Arrives on Visit

NC2304141293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1305 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 23 Apr (MENA)—Hungarian National Assembly Speaker Gyorgy Szabad and his accompanying delegation arrived in Cairo this afternoon on a three-day visit at the invitation of the People's Assembly. The delegation will discuss strengthening bilateral parliamentary relations. People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Fathi Surur welcomed the visitors at the airport. [passage omitted]

Ends Visit, Departs

NC2604095493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0642 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 26 Apr (MENA)—Hungarian National Assembly Speaker Gyorgy Szabad and his accompanying delegation left Cairo early this morning for home following a three-day visit to Egypt.

During his visit, Szabad met with People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Ahmad Fathi Surur on ways to strengthen bilateral parliamentary cooperation. The Hungarian parliamentary speaker also attended the celebrations held in Tabah the day before yesterday on the 11th anniversary of the liberation of Sinai.

Mubarak Receives Nigerian National Guard Commander

NC2704113393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1021 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 27 Apr (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today received General 'Abd-al-Mu'min Aminu, commander general of the Nigerian National Guard corps, who arrived in Cairo earlier today.

The meeting was attended by Nigerian Charge D'affairs Patrick Baur and the members of the delegation accompanying the Nigerian official, including Colonel John Uno, chief of operation in the national guards corps; Colonel Bashir Jinadu, chief of training; and Aku Bu Muhammad, director of planning in the national guards corps [names, titles as received.]

Iraqi News Agency Reopens Cairo Office

JN2604160893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1225 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 26 Apr (INA)—The Iraqi News Agency's [INA] office in Cairo has resumed its operations by transmitting news reports and stories to INA's head office after more than a two-year hiatus.

Al-Biltaji, head of the General Information Organization affiliated with the Egyptian Ministry of Information, has received Talib Bahr, head of the INA office in Cairo.

During the meeting, the two officials discussed the ties of cooperation between INA and MENA in the area of exchanging news and press reports, as well as the means of enhancing these ties in the interest of the Arab nation's causes, its unity, and its cohesion.

Talib Bahr joined the INA Cairo office in mid-April, whereas MENA's office in Baghdad resumed its operations on 14 March.

'Adnan al-Juburi, director general and chief editor of INA, has met with Muhammad Haykal, head of MENA's Baghdad office, in Baghdad. They discussed means of enhancing ties between the two agencies and prospects for promoting these ties through the exchange of information, reports, and news.

Mauritania

President Signs Joint Communique With Burkina-Faso

LD2604223393 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 2030 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Excerpts] His Excellency Blaise Campaore, president of the Republic of Burkina-Faso, left the capital this evening after a three-day official visit to our country, at the invitation of President Maaouya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya. [passage omitted]

President Ould Taya and President Campaore signed the final joint communique on the visit at the presidential palace this evening. Here is a full translation [from French into Arabic] of the text of this communique, with our colleague Babah Ould Sidi Abdallah:

[Abdallah] At the invitation of His Excellency President Maaouya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, His Excellency Blaise Campaore, president of Burkina-Faso and head of state, paid a state visit to Mauritania from 24 to 26 April 1993. This visit, which comes within the framework of the fraternal relations between the Mauritanian and Burkinabe peoples, has given the two presidents an excellent opportunity to have a fruitful exchange of views over issues of common interest concerning bilateral relations and the situation in the region, and also in Africa and the world. [passage omitted]

Touching on the situation in Africa, the two presidents expressed their attachment to the establishment of democratic multiparty systems in a climate of peace and calm. They also expressed concern over the existence of hotbeds of tension and conflicts in the continent. Concerning South Africa, the two presidents expressed their denunciation of the violence resulting from the killing of struggler Chris Hani, one of the militants in the fight against the apartheid policy. The two presidents stressed

that it is urgent for all South Africans to shun violence and create the appropriate climate for setting up a non-ethnic democracy.

Regarding the Somali crisis, the two presidents reiterated their support for UN Security Council resolution 733 on bringing about peace and scurity in this country. In dealing with the situation in the Middle East, the two presidents stressed their support for the peace process aimed at reaching a just and comprehensive solution to this conflict based on resolutions 242 and 338 issued by the Security Council, calling for the protection of the rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to set up their own independent state under the leadership of the PLO.

Concerning the Bosnian tragedy, marked by the violation of human rights by the Serb forces against the Bosnian people through ethnic cleansing and military maltreatment of innocent victims, the two presidents expressed great concern over this crisis, and reiterated their full support for the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

As for the international economic situation, the two presidents expressed their concern over the growing internatonal economic crisis, and its grave repercussions on the developing countries, particularly the less developed ones. In this respect, the two presidents reiterated their attachment to the setting up of a fairer international economic order that guarantees the joint development of all the countries of the world through real solidarity between them.

The two presidents stressed their adherence to the idea of bolstering Arab-African relations as a basic element of South-South cooperation, and showed satisfaction at the level of relations between the OAU and the Arab League. [passage omitted: satisfaction at work of Islamic Conference Organization; two presidents happy at identity of views between them on all issues discussed]

His Excellency Blaise Campaore extended an invitation to his brother and friend His Excellency Maaouya Ould Sid Ahmed Taya to visit Burkina-Faso. The invitation was accepted with pleasure and the date will be fixed later through diplomatic channels.

Sudan

'Alliance,' Rebels, Cairo Blamed in Coup Plot

EA2304205193 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] A highly-placed security source has said in a statement to the SUDAN NEWS AGENCY that the security organs have got their hands on a detailed plan prepared by the alliance of the dissolved parties and the rebel movement by which they aimed to invade Sudan and seize power after carrying out extensive sabotage operations and political assassinations.

The source added that the most important thing that emerged from the plan was that the invading forces would be forces of the rebel movement backed by some individuals belonging to parties of the north led by Brigadier, retired, 'Abd-al-Aziz Khalid Uthman.

It was decided that these forces should be transported by a foreign warship and then by Egyptian aircraft to specific sites. The source said that according to the plan, the Egyptian Government would provide other equipment, including night binoculars, 500 revolvers with silencers for assassinations besides ammunition and official uniforms.

The security source said that all the dissolved parties and the rebel movement had agreed on forming a military council chaired by the runaway Fathi Ahmad Ali and with the rebel John Garang as his deputy. The alleged council includes (Silvakir Maldet), (John Swani Eva), 'Abd-al-Rahman (Sa'idi), 'Abd-al-Aziz Khalid, and seven others. The Council of Ministers would consist of 24 members, in which the rebel movement would be concerned with the attorney general and the Ministries of Culture and Information, Planning, and Education, in addition to the fact that the movement was keen on taking over the Ministry of Energy and Mining.

The source explained that the alliance parties approved other conditions laid down by the movement of the rebel John Garang, including the fact that the movement would form a government for the whole south without the trusteeship or influence of the transitional military council or the Council of Ministers. It would also form the police, prisons, and game reserve forces without reverting to the military council either.

The alliance people also approved gradual secession for the south under the name of confederation.

On the other hand, the security source revealed in his statement that Egypt had been pressuring the Cairo alliance to prove its effectiveness to the rebel movement by providing it with opportunities and places for explosives training in Cairo. The abortive attempt to blow up the Jubayt Bridge was the first attempt.

He added that the preliminary meeting to draw up the plan for this criminal conspiracy had been held in London. Details were then laid down at the Athens meeting during the Christmas celebrations. The Greek Communist Party had provided cover and security for this meeting through the traitor Izz al-Din Ali Amir. He said that the symbols [as heard] of the alliance had been rushed to Nairobi last week in an attempt to persuade Garang not to go to Abuja for the peace talks. They had held discussions with the rebel movement on the final details for the invasion as they see them with the aim that it would not be later than the start of autumn in the north.

At the end of his statement, the security source confirmed that the revolution would always remain vigilant. The revolution's capability, which is derived from the

ability of the creator, would lie in wait of every agent conspiracy since it was backed by the rallying of the people around it and their observation of such conspiracies and treason. He confirmed that the security organs had in their hands many details on this matter and its limited elements inside the country were under complete control without them realizing it.

Al-Bashir Comments on 'Plot,' Abuja

EA2404161693 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and the Council of Ministers, held a press conference this afternoon at the Friendship Hall in Khartoum. His excellency reviewed the government's peace efforts to make a success of the second round of the Abuja talks to be held on 26 April.

He said that the visits he had recently paid to Nigeria, Uganda, and Kenya had confirmed the government's determination to achieve peace in Sudan and to renew confidence in the mediation of the Nigerian president, Ibrahim Babangida, between the government and the rebel movement.

Al-Bashir revealed details about the plot aimed at invading the country and seizing power in Khartoum. He said that the rebel movement had taken part in the plan together with the so-called Alliance and with support from Egypt. He pointed to the recent gathering of the so-called leaders of the Alliance in Nairobi which was aimed at convincing the rebel movement not to conclude peace with the government. He revealed that the Alliance leaders offered big concessions to Garang, including gradual separation of the south in addition to controlling the government in Khartoum. His excellency said that the government had traced all the elements of the plan.

He denied all charges of terrorism against Sudan and said that all the proof was there which confirmed that Egypt had been sending terrorist elements to khartoum to carry out assassinations and physical liquidation. His excellency said: We are keen on achieving peace in spite of our military capabilities and in spite of victories we have already achieved.

He pointed out that the issue of the south is a political one and must be resolved politically and not militarily. Lt. Gen. al-Bashir confirmed that the government delegation to the Abuja negotiations was ready to move at the fixed date. The Nigerian Government had also confirmed the acceptance of the rebel movement to attend Abuja II.

SNDG, SPLM Deny Plotting Coup

NC2404193693 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Text] The Sudanese Democratic National Grouping [SDNG] in Cairo today responded to statements by a Sudanese security official accusing the SDNG and the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM] of plotting a military coup in Sudan. The statement says:

The SDNG has been following for some time now the numerous fabricated claims of the Khartoum regime, which suffers from popular wrath at home, international rebuke abroad, and the escalation of struggle by the entire Sudanese people.

The SDNG denies these renewed lies and declares that the Sudanese masses, politicians, trade unionists, and military can bring down the rule of the National Islamic Front and bring its terrorist leaders to justice.

Opposition Official on 'Coup Plot'

AB2604224493 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 26 Apr 93

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] One of the main culprits in the plot which the Sudanese Government claimed to have uncovered at the weekend is the National Democratic Alliance [NDA]. The NDA is a coalition, which includes former Prime Minister Sadiq al-Mahdi's Ummah Party. If Khartoum is to be believed, they are in league with John Garang's SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] rebel faction in a bid to overthrow General al-Bashir with help from Egypt. Ummah Party Spokesman Mubarak al-Mahdi is in London at the moment. Robin White asked him if the government's allegations are true.

[Begin recording][Al-Mahdi] I think it is political hallucinations from the government side, but it is a cover-up for a clamp down on politicians inside.

[White] The government claims to have an awful of details. It is saying that it has got details of equipment being moved, the plans to move people, the names of the cabinet you are going to set up, that king of thing.

[Al-Mahdi] Well, I don't think if you [pauses]...if you plan a coup now I do not think you will get to that many details they have got into, because why do you need to take troops from inside the Sudan and bring them through the Red Sea. You can send them into the west, through Kurdufan, through Darfur, through the Blue Nile Province, in the Central Region. You do not need to go all the way through Suez Canal to come to Port Sudan.

[White] But you do plot yourself. You do plot, you spend all your time plotting against this regime.

[Al-Mahdi] [laughs] Well, we work very hard to have a peaceful change in the country. We are a political force. We stir the masses to stand up against the government. Nothing else.

[White] But you've just been in Nairobi. You had talks there with John Garang. Were you not plotting with him?

[Al-Mahdi] No, we were agreeing on principles to govern the country. We are responsible political forces. We were debating over serious issues that have divided the country for the last 10 years...

[White, interrupting] Coup plotting is a serious issue, Mr. Mubarak?

[Al-Mahdi] Yes, but we in the Ummah, we are not for coups. Coups is [as heard] not our way for effecting a change of government. We are popular forces.

[White] It might not be your way, but he is involved in a war, isn't he?

[Al-Mahdi] Yes, that is a different case, because the South has always felt that it did not have the political muscle to stand up and get its rights. That is why they have always resorted to arms to be listened to in Khartoum.

[White] You are denying this. Yet, you know, you are very close to the Egyptian Government. You go to Egypt. You are close to John Garang. You've just met him. I mean, are people going to believe you that you haven't been plotting something over these past few weeks?

[Al-Mahdi] Well, close together with political forces is something, and plotting a coup is something else. We admit we are political forces. We are working to overthrow this government, but not through a coup or assassinations.

[White] But, presumably, since the authorities in Khartoum announced this coup plot, they've arrested some of your supporters in Khartoum.

[Al-Mahdi] Yes, they did.

[White] Do you have any idea how many people have been rounded up?

[Al-Mahdi] They have [pauses]...according to information we got two weeks ago they rounded up about 21 of our political cadres and leaders. And we got unconfirmed reports that up to 70 people have been arrested in the last 48 hours. [end recording]

Egypt Said Harboring 'Invasion Forces'

PM2704112593 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 25 Apr 93 pp 1, 4

[Reports by 'Umar Muhammad al-Hasan in Khartoum, Mu'awiyah Yasin in London, and Muhammad 'Allam in Cairo: "Sudan Announces Invasion Plan Foiled"]

[Excerpts] [Sudanese Revolution Command Council Chairman] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir has accused Egypt of training people opposed to his regime in Beirut "without the Lebanese Government's knowledge." He revealed that his government had foiled a plan for the invasion of his country prepared for implementation by military and partisan opposition elements. He declared that the "invaders" planned to announced the formation of a government headed by [former Prime Minister] al-Sadiq al-Mahdi.

Egypt, however, has, without any expression of anger, rejected the Sudanese accusations, while the Sudanese opposition declared that "coups are not our way of introducing change."

The Sudanese leader told a news conference in Khartoum yesterday that "Egypt sent Sudanese oppositionists to Beirut to be trained by the militias on blowing up bridges and vital installations and on assassination" without specifying the targets, and that it intended to supply the opposition with "12 Cobra helicopters" to transport forces of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA] led by Colonel John Garang from the Red Sea coast "where an Egyptian naval frigate is supposed to have taken them."

He added that "Egypt promised to provide military field uniforms similar to the Sudanese Army uniforms, plus 500 pistols with silencers to be used for assassination." He said that the invasion plan was to be carried out under the command of Brigadier General 'Abd-al-'Aziz Khalid (living in Cairo) with the help of the SPLA's chief of staff.

The Sudanese leader also said that "documents show that al-Sadiq al-Mahdi was to be appointed prime minister. It was clear to us that his recent movements were in preparation for that step."

AL-HAYAH has asked Minister of State for Political Affairs [title as published] Dr. Ghazi Salah al-Din in Khartoum about the fate of al-Mahdi. Speaking by telephone, he replied that al-Mahdi had not been arrested, but he added that "if investigations proved that he was involved then he would be brought to trial like any ordinary person facing charges."

Noticeably, the report on the attempt as carried by Sudanese radio Friday night said that former Sudanese Foreign Minister Lawyer Faruq Abu-'Isa, not al-Mahdi, would be prime Minister. The reason for that contradiction is not known.

A security source in Khartoum has told AL-HAYAH that the seized documents indicated that there was an intention to form "a transitional military council" to rule the country for five years which would be headed by Lieutenant General Fathi Ahmad 'Ali, leader of the military opposition, with Col. Garang deputizing, and that the council would consist of 15 members including Silve Kir and James Wani (Garang assistants), Lieutenant General 'Abd-al-Rahman Sa'id, Brigadier General al-Hadi Bishri, and Brigadier General 'Abd-al-'Aziz Khalid.

The source added that the cabinet would have 24 portfolios with the education, information, justice, and energy portfolios going to the SPLA. He said that one document indicated that northern and southern oppositionists agreed that a government would be formed in the

south of the country "without the intervention of the military council or the cabinet, and that the southern government would have the freedom to appoint officers and members of the police force and prison authorities, and that it was agreed to have a confederal system in the south in accordance with Garang's proposal."

The security source further said that the invasion plan was drawn up at two meetings in Athens arranged by one of the Communist Party leaders, and that it was to be implemented sometime between next July and October.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir said that "neither the [Sudanese Democratic National] grouping nor anyone else can occupy Khartoum through foreign invasion." Referring to relations with Egypt, he said "We still believe that good-neighborly relations should prevail between us and Egypt, but we have been greatly harmed by the latter. All members of the (Sudanese) opposition are in Cairo with the opportunity of meeting with government officials open to them and with access to the official news media." He added that "our country does not harbor terrorists nor enemies of Egypt. We have long been waiting for any evidence to be produced in support of these accusations, but we have evidence of its plotting against us. We have confessions and we have the explosives." The Sudanese leader accused the supporters of former President Ja'far Numayri of involvement in the plan "together with retired officers and civilian remnants of the parties."

Minister Salah al-Din told AL-HAYAH that "the militia which trained the Sudanese invasion elements has links with Israel." He said that the role of the Sudanese parties' leaders in all that is not clear yet. He added that those arrested were not known to the public and that "some of them are members of an ideological party." That was a reference to the Sudanese Communist Party.

He said that his government believes that Egypt's charge that Sudan supported terrorism "was made to cover up its plots against us." He expressed the view that the discovery of the plot which he said the opposition planned to implement "would not set relations with Egypt back." He also said that "the invasion forces were supplied with night vision binoculars and that the physical liquidation list included most of the regime's leaders as well as civilian figures." [passage omitted]

In a telephone statement to AL-HAYAH from his headquarters in Egypt, Brig. Gen. al-Hadi Bishri, one of the military opposition leaders, said: "We do not invade. We will overthrow the current military regime from within and with our own means, and we will replace it with a civilian regime." He added that the Sudanese Army's "legitimate command" organization "is operating in cooperation with the opposition forces in fields where the latter can help, and is operating separately for reasons of military security."

He added that he saw no reason why Lt. Gen. Fathi Ahmad should not be president of the country. He said that the regime "is now besieged internally and externally following the failure of all its political, economic, and ideological plans." He accused it of "fabrication, with the invasion prime minister named as Abu-'Isa at night and al-Mahdi in the daytime." He added that "the Sudanese people do not need any [foreign] party to change the regime for them. Yes, there are adventurers, partisan individuals and groups who want to seize power by force, but the Sudanese would never accept a regime which a foreign party helped bring to power." [passage omitted]

Al-Bashir Comments on Trip to Uganda, Kenya

EA2304162693 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Ladies and Gentlemen, as you heard in the news bulletin, the leader of the revolution returned to Khartoum yesterday after a one-day visit to Uganda and Kenya. Immediately after his arrival, his excellency made the following statement:

[Begin al-Bashir recording] Our visit was to Uganda and Kenya, where we met President Museveni in Kampala and President Moi in Nairobi. We thanked the brother presidents for their past efforts to achieve peace and make the Abuja negotiations successful. We enlightened them on the latest conditions in Sudan. We also asked them to continue their efforts until Abuja II succeeds, God willing, and peace is achieved in Sudan.

We also touched on the development of our bilateral relations with Uganda and Kenya.

We also talked about relations within the region and area and stability, security, development and joint cooperation between the states of the region. We also talked about other issues facing the African continent. We talked about concerted efforts in Africa and between African states, and cooperation in all spheres.

In general, the visit successfully accomplished our purpose. We found great enthusiasm from the brother presidents, Moi and Museveni, for achieving peace in Sudan and stability. God willing, all these efforts will be crowned and the peace talks in Abuja will succeed and peace will be achieved in Sudan. [end recording]

Al-Bashir Receives Kenyan Deputy Information Minister

EA2304115193 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 2145 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and of the Council of Ministers, met Shariff Nassir, the Kenyan assistant minister of information, in his office at the general secretariat of the Council of Ministers, at 1200 on 21 April. Nassir is currently visiting the country to participate in the conference of trustees of the African Islamic Agency for Relief, which is also being attended

by Dr. Mustafa 'Uthman, secretary general of the International People's Friendship Council.

The Kenyan assistant minister of information explained in a press statement following the meeting that he discussed with the president the importance of developing economic relations and securing the fraternal relations binding the two brotherly peoples.

The president welcomed the visit of the Kenyan assistant minister of information, explaining that Sudan is bound by distinct relations with Kenya. His Excellency praised the nationalist role of President Daniel arap Moi for the survival and stability of Kenya, which was confirmed through the wish of the Kenyan people and their election of President Moi to lead Kenya. The president also affirmed that Sudan always calls for and supports the stability of states, particularly the neighboring states. He explained that Sudan does not interfere in the internal affairs of the neighboring states, as is rumored.

Assembly Speaker in Talks With Kenyan Deputy Minister

EA2304123593 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Mr. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, speaker of the Transitional National Assembly, met Shariff Nassir, the Kenyan assistant minister of information and Member of Parliament in his office on 22 April.

During the meeting, the Kenyan official confirmed the firmness of relations between his country and Sudan. He praised Sudan's efforts in the sphere of deepening parliamentary work and extending parliamentary relations with sisterly and friendly states, in addition to the international community. He also pointed out the necessity of inviting political and parliamentary personalities to visit Sudan to acquaint themselves with the reality of conditions there, which biased newspapers and information organs endeavor to portray in an unrealistic manner.

Al-Bashir Receives Visiting Iraqi Minister

EA2704114593 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0315 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and of the Council of Ministers, has reaffirmed Sudan's support for Iraq in all the crises affecting that country. During a meeting in his office at Friendship Hall in Khartoum with Mr. Mahmud Dhiyab al-Ahmad, the Iraqi housing and reconstruction minister, who is currently visiting the country, Lt. Gen. al-Bashir hailed Iraq for its achievement in rebuilding its infrastructure with its own resources.

The Iraqi housing minister stated that during the meeting he had conveyed the greetings of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and the Iraqi people and their aspirations for Sudan's progress to Lt. Gen. al-Bashir. He said the Iraqi leadership was doing everything in its power to transfer to Sudan all the Iraqi State's resources of experience in reconstruction work.

His Excellency The Minister said that during his visit to Sudan he had held talks with all the relevant authorities on bilateral cooperation, construction, reconstruction, and planning. He said he had inspected a number of sites in Khartoum State and Port Sudan harbor.

Foreign Minister Returns From Egypt Meeting

EA2304151593 Khartoum SUNA in English 0930 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 23 Apr (SUNA)—Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Husayn Sulayman Abu Salih returned here Thursday [22 April] after participating in the Arab foreign ministers meeting in Cairo and in the funeral of the late Turkish President Turgut Ozal.

The minister said the important Arab foreign ministers' meeting, during a three [word indistinct] closed session, tackled the issue of surpassing the Arab differences and creating a solid base for the Arab solidarity. The meeting has also reviewed the Arab League secretary general's efforts in this regard, he added.

On the sidelines of the Arab ministers' meeting in Cairo, Dr Abu Salih met with the foreign ministers of the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and the Libyan representative to the meeting. In a press statement Thursday, the minister said the meetings were very frank as an essential step towards rehabilitation of Arab relations.

Dr Abu Salih said he also held a one and half hour meeting with his Egyptian counterpart Amr Musa and discussed the whole issue which led to the deterioration of Sudan-Egypt relations. The meeting stressed on the importance of tackling the issue within the context of the fraternal ties between the two countries and supporting the joint technical Sudanese-Egyptian Committee on Hala'ib with wider authorities, he added. [passage omitted]

Abuja Delegation Briefs al-Bashir Before Departure

EA2504212093 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Text] On 26 April, the government delegation to the preliminary peace negotiations will proceed to the Nigerian capital, Abuja. The negotiations will begin tomorrow. The delegation is led by Mr. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, Transitional National Assembly speaker.

Earlier the delegation met Lieutenant General al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and the Council of Ministers, at his office in the Friendship Hall. Mr. Khalifah briefed him on the final arrangements for the delegation's participation in the negotiations. Mr.

Khalifah said in a press statement that the negotiations would center on the resolutions of the national dialogue conference on peace issues as well as the outcome of the Abuja talks and basic principles, which include national integrity, federal rule, the political system, the Entebbe agreement, the recent visits by Lt. Gen. al-Bashir to neighboring countries, the president's offer of amnesty to all who had carried arms, and his speech today at a rally.

His excellency said: We are carrying the hopes of all the Sudanese people with open mind so as to reach a comprehensive and final peace satisfying all sides of the sons of the homeland. He expressed his hope that the efforts would be crowned with success.

Regarding the participation of the rebel John Garang and the other factions in the negotiations, Mr. Khalifah said that in accordance with reports from the Nigerian mediators, John Garang would come to Nigeria and that Silva Kiir Wani would head the delegation of the rebel Garang.

The Nigerian Government had not succeeded in bringing the rebel united movement led by Carabino Kuany Bol in spite of many efforts made. This is because of the Garang movement's insistence that they should not attend the negotiations. He pointed out that the government delegation would negotiate with Garang's movement if the mediators did not manage to bring the other factions but would preserve the right to negotiate with the other sides. He said that the fighting going on between the different rebel factions confirmed that the war in the south was neither a religious one nor an ethnic one but a struggle for power between parties disputing over power there.

Mr. Khalifah said that the outcome of the negotiations would be positive if the other side would submit to what is right. Meanwhile, the government's preparatory delegation to the peace negotiations arrived in Abuja this morning led by Dr. 'Ali al-Haj Muhammad. The delegation was received on arrival by the under secretary of the Foreign Ministry and a number of members from the mediation team of Nigeria.

It is expected that the delegation from Garang's group will arrive later today. The government's delegation includes Police Major General George Kongor, the governor of Bahr al-Ghazal; Dr. 'Ali al-Haj Muhammad, the minister of planning and investment and the official spokesman of the delegation; Dr. Husayn Abu-Salih, the foreign minister; Mr. 'Uthman 'Abd-al-Qadir 'Abd-al-Latif, the minister of transport, communications, and tourism; Mr. 'Abd-al-Aziz Shiddu, minister of justice and attorney general; Dr. Nafi Ali Nafi, minister of state at the Presidency; Mr. Angelo Beda, deputy governor of Equatoria; Peter Charliman, commissioner of Sobat; Mr. Ahmad al-Radi Jabir, chairman of the Peace Committee at the Transitional National Assembly; and Colonel (Mitlang).

SPLA's John Garang on Abuja Talks

AB2604225393 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 26 Apr 93

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Well, the latest round of peace talks between John Garang's SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] and the Khartoum Government has started today despite the allegations that he's been plotting with northern politicians to overthrow Gen. al-Bashir. Garang denied having anything to do with this. But he himself is not attending the talks. On the line to Nairobi, Elizabeth Ohene asked him why he has not gone to Abuja.

[Begin recording] [Garang] There is no requirement that I should be there. I cannot possibly lead my own delegation. The talks are not between John Garang and the Sudan Government. The talks are between the SPLM [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement]-SPLA and the Sudan Government. So, the Sudan Government has sent a delegation, and we have sent a delegation.

[Ohene] But, surely your presence would have added even more stature to the talks.

[Garang] My presence as head of the SPLM-SPLA is not necessary at Abuja. It may actually be counterproductive. Suppose you have snags at Abuja during the talks—then where do you refer to if I am the one there?

[Ohene] Would this, say, have taken the presence of Gen. al- Bashir there to make you go?

[Garang] No, it is not necessary. We have a fully authorized delegation to negotiate on behalf of the movement. Whether Gen. al- Bashir is there or not is besides the point. We have a fully mandated delegation.

[Ohene] Now, this delegation of the SPLA-SPLM, are there some things that are not negotiable that they have taken to the meeting?

[Garang] Well, we are negotiating, and we are negotiating with an open mind and with an open heart. We cannot talk about what is negotiable and what is not negotiable. This is the task of the delegation, and I do not want to do their job. What I can say in that regard is that the SPLA-SPLM has gone into these negotiations with seriousness and, if the other side, if the Khartoum Government, is serious at arriving at a peaceful settlement to the conflict, then we can get somewhere.

[Ohene] But are you negotiating within the concept of one Sudan, or do you want a separate state, or you want a confederation, or what?

[Garang] We have a blueprint which is public and in which we have presented to the Sudanese people for discussion. We are saying that let us have unity within diversity. We have (?depicted) this pictorially as an intersection of two circles with a common area. That common area is what we at to define at Abuja II. Things

that are controversial, let us relegate them to the two states. Shari'ah law has been sticking issue. We are saying that let us not put it in the shaded area. Let us put it in the white area, in the northern nonfederal state. So, we are negotiating within the context of unity, of Sudanese unity, but unity in diversity, concertized in a modality of a confederation. [end recording]

Government Delegation, SPLM-United Issue Communique

EA2704112593 Khartoum SUNA in English 1625 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] Khartoum, 26 Apr (SUNA)—A delegation of the Sudan Government, headed by 'Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha, held talks on Friday [23 April] in Nairobi with a delegation of the Carabino Kuany Bol. The two sides discussed a paper on the interim arrangements presented by the delegation of the outlaws movement.

The two sides agreed to meet again on 7th May to continue discussion on the issues raised during the talks. Below is the specifications of the joint communique signed by the two sides at the end of the talks:

1. The delegation of the Sudan Government led by Mr. 'Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha and the delegation of the SPLM/A [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/ Army]-United led by Carabino Kuany Bol met in Nairobi on the 23rd April 1993 to [discuss the] conflict in Sudan. The discussions were frank and serious.

2. The two sides reaffirmed their commitment to the principles laid down in the Abuja [in Nigeria] peace conference of May/June 1992 as the framework for the attainment of peace in the country.

3. In this respect the meeting discussed a paper on the details of interim arrangements presented by the delegation of the SPLM/A- United. Considerable progress was made on the issues raised and the two sides agreed to continue.

4. The two sides extend their thanks of Sudan who made this meeting possible.

Tunisia

Ben Ali Receives Libyan External Liaison Secretary

LD2304203593 Tunis Tunis-7 Television in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali this afternoon received at Carthage Palace Mr. 'Umar al-Muntasir, secretary of the External Liaison Bureau in the Libyan Jamahiriyah and special envoy of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, to Mr. President. The audience was attended by Foreign Affairs Minister Habib Ben Yahya.

Following that audience, which had also been attended by Mr. 'Abd-al-'Ati La'bidi, the Jamahiriyah' general delegate in Tunisia, Mr. 'Umar al-Muntasir announced that he had conveyed to Mr. President greetings from his brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. He added that the audience had dealt with the developments of international issues of interest to the Jamahiriyah and to Tunisia and the Arab Maghreb Union. He said: Mr. President gave us his advice in that respect and and asked us to convey his greetings to the leader of the Libyan revolution.

Ben Ali Accepts International Human Rights Charter

LD2304153493 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Excerpt] On the occasion of the National Day of Associations, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali this morning at Carthage Palace delivered a speech in which he announced Tunisia's acceptance of the rulings of Article 41 of the International Charter of Civic and Political Rights, in accordance with the transparency which distinguishes the policy of our country in the field of human rights in theory and practice.

President Zine Ben Ali reaffirmed the state's determination to do everything it can to achieve prosperity for the life of associations in our country. [passage omitted]

Communist Party Conference Opens in Tunis 22 Apr

LD2304011693 Tunis Tunis-7 Television in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] The 10th conference of the Tunisian Communist Party opened today in the capital with closed sessions at the committee level. The conference will conclude its work tomorrow afternoon in a public session, during which the birth of the Renewal Movement [Harakat Al-Tajdid] is expected to be declared, replacing the Tunisian Communist Party.

During a meeting with the press, the conference official spokesman made clear that the morning session was devoted to electing members of the conference presidential bureau. Mohamed Harmel, secretary general of the Communist Party, read a report in which he analyzed the main reasons for the collapse and failure of the socialist experience. It is expected that the conference will elect the party's new secretary general and the head and members of the constituent council, leaving this council open for further enrollment in the new party.

Renewal Movement Founded at Conference

LD2404162793 Tunis Tunis-7 Television in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Interview with Mohamed Harmel, secretary general of the Renewal Movement, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] The Tunisian Communist Party today ended its conference and announced the birth of the Renewal Movement. Mohamed Harmel, the secretary general of this new political organization, will give us an idea of the main resolutions of the conference.

[Harmel] The conference approved a document which we called the intellectual, political, and organizational features of the Renewal Movement. The approval was virtually unanimous. The conference also elected a council which we called the Constituent Council and which comprises over 40 members. We chose that name in order to preserve the symbolism of a common edifice. The Constituent Council convened and elected the secretary general of the movement and its executive body, while we also introduced a new element into our organization which was the constituent chairman. Mohamed Ali El Halouani was elected chairman of the Constituent Council.

Those are the most important resolutions which express our will to make all our resolutions compatible with our orientations at the Renewal Movement. Obviously, the Renewal Movement is a legal extension of the Tunisian Communist Party. However, it is a new democratic and progressive movement in its references, name, shape, and organization. It did not come out of nothing, nor did it depart from a void. It was the result of a progression, as there was a Tunisian Communist Party heritage. We consider the conference to have announced not an end but a fresh start.

There were also other progressive elements. Such a merger is a distinctive feature of the Renewal Movement; a merger of the Tunisian Communist Party's positive heritage and the progressive and positive heritage of other progressive streams. The conference is only a beginning; it is not an end.

We have embarked on implementation so as to end a delay which has already entailed three years of discussions and consultations. We have taken the first step which will be succeeded by other steps. The Constituent Council will remain open to progressive elements who wish to join the Renewal Movement and enjoy full rights.

[Correspondent] Did the conference treat the question of the forthcoming legislative elections? What is the stance of the Renewal Movement on the issue of participation in the elections?

[Harmel] The conference had a dense agenda: the document which defines the premise and features and the election of the Constituent Council and leadership bodies. But that is only what we have done at the present juncture. If you look at the political aspect of our premise, you will see that the Renewal Movement is a democratic movement which exercises the function of a political party within civil society. It will exercise the function of criticism and constructive national opposition and will also partake in conciliation. I think that elections are part of this problematic which I have no doubt the Renewal Movement will help deal with, although would require a resolution from the Constituent Council.

Bahrain

Syrian Foreign Minister Arrives on Short Visit

JN2304194193 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1910 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Manama, 23 Apr (WAKH)—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived in Manama this evening on a short visit to Bahrain.

He was received by Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin- Mubarak Al Khalifah, and the Foreign Ministry protocol chief.

Kuwait

Iraqi 'Elements' Reportedly Planned To Kill Bush

NC2504080193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0715 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Text] London, 25 Apr (MENA)—Citing high-level sources in Kuwait, the newspaper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT reports today that Iraqi elements infiltrated Kuwait's northern border on 13 April prior to former U.S. President George Bush's visit to Kuwait to carry out several acts of sabotage, including the assassination of Bush and his entourage.

The newspaper says the elements were arrested before they could carry out their terrorist operations. The eight-member group includes one Kuwaiti citizen. The others are from the Bidun category [stateless bedouins who live permanently in Kuwait] and are of Iraqi origin. They left Kuwait during the Gulf war crisis and now work for Iraqi intelligence.

The newspaper adds that the defendants confessed to their Kuwaiti interrogators that they had come to Kuwait to carry out acts of sabotage during Bush's visit.

The defendants said Iraqi intelligence drew up a three-phased plan for them. They were to assassinate Bush as he left the airport. If that failed, they were to use a booby-trapped vehicle to blow up the building where Bush would be awarded an honorary doctorate by Kuwait University. If they could not get the car to the ceremony, they were to detonate a car bomb in a public place crowded with civilians.

The sources said the elements were arrested in al-Jahra' Governorate and made detailed confessions of what they intended to do.

Iraqi 'Terrorist Network' Captured

LD2604191993 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] The Interior Ministry today announced the capture of all the members of a terrorist network which was sent in by the Iraqi regime and which has attempted to carry out sabotage operations with the aim of disturbing security and stability and causing terror among citizens.

A statement issued by the Ministry said that security reasons made it necessary not to announce the capture of the network's members, so as to enable the state security apparatus to arrest the remainder of its members and to get to their fifth column accomplices. The Ministry did not mention the number of members of the terrorist network, but it did say that the network was sent in by the Iraqi regime to carry out terrorist operations in Kuwait.

The statement said that from the outset the security apparatus was aware of the criminal scheme—which was to be carried out in phases during next month—its details, and those behind it. The statement went on to say that the security authorities took all the measures required to uncover the network's sabotage plans and its objectives, all of which were foiled.

Saudi Arabia

King Orders Further Aid for Bosnia-Herzegovina

LD2404215593 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Text] As part of efforts by King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, to support and assist the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina at all levels and international forums, and as an extension of the humanitarain aid offered by the Kingdom to the Republic, the custodian of the two holy mosques has issued orders to give immediate humanitarian assistance to the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina to the tune of $20 million, or 75 million Saudi riyals.

That brings the total monetary assistance offered by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina to more than 300 million riyals or $80 million, in addition to other material assistance, such as medicine, food, and other goods.

Communist Party Seeks Democracy Not 'Downfall of Monarchy'

JN2704083293 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 27 Apr 93 p 2

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Sawsan Ghawshah]

[Text] Amman—The Saudi Communist Party (SCP) does not have any illusions of reaching power in its puritan Muslim homeland. Its moderate aim is to continue to insist on instituting a democratic form of government in the kingdom, said Hamad al-Mubarak, a member in exile of the SCP.

The SCP is demanding reform of the political process, and not a radical change in the system. "We are only asking for democracy, not the downfall of the monarchy," Mr. al-Mubarak said.

Mr. al-Mubarak said the Gulf war was a turning point for Saudi Arabia and the SCP.

The Gulf war revealed "the corruption, the military weakness, the lack of national unity and loyalty" that characterise the political and social life in Saudi Arabia, he said.

It also emphasised Saudi Arabia's total dependence on the United States, said Mr. al-Mubarak, who attended a recent Jordanian Communist Party conference.

The Gulf war has increased the awarness of the Saudi people and the percentage of Saudis who are demanding democracy, according to Mr. al-Mubarak.

Democracy, Mr. al-Mubarak said, has widespread support in Saudi Arabia, even among members of the royal family, but it is finding resistance from King Fahd's branch of the ruling family.

Asked whether a meeting was held between Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and the SCP, Mr. al-Mubarak said no official meeting was held, but that Prince 'Abdallah met with certain individuals accused of being members of the SCP. He added that the crown prince is popular in the country and a known supporter of democracy.

He emphasised that "if democracy is not instituted in Saudi Arabia, violence will spread throughout the country due to tribalism, factionalism and regionalism."

"Saudi Arabia has no freedoms, no constitution and no unions. It pays no attention to human rights agreements," Mr. al-Mubarak asserted.

The absence of democracy, he added, has brought together opposition parties and forces in Saudi Arabia and increased the public's support for them. The SCP has managed to cooperate with the Democratic National Alliance and the Shi'ite reformist movement, he said.

"The SCP cannot be ignored as an important political force in the country. Even the government looks for our literature and our analysis of events," he claimed. Support for the party, Mr. al- Mubarak added, is found throughout Saudi Arabia, but is mainly located in the south, where a large labour population lives. He refused to disclose any numbers of percentages of the party's strength, explaining that it is an underground party and thus it is impossible to know numbers.

Mr. al-Mubarak is anticipating a change in the name and the platform of the party at the SCP's next conference. He refused to divulge any information about the time and place of the meeting.

He said the SCP, which dates back to the 1950s, changed its name to the Saudi Communist Party in its first conference in 1975. Now, Mr. al-Mubarak said, the SCP is discussing these changes in order to focus on the priorities of the current era and to become a mass political party.

He said the SCP is socialist in its principles. But, he said, "in this period, it believes it should focus on democracy, human rights, social development, political and economic independence, perceiving that socialism is something that may materialise in the very distant future."

Deputy Minister on Combating Terrorism

PM2304130593 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 23 Apr 93 pp 25, 26

[Interview with Saudi Deputy Interior Minister Prince Ahmad Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz by unidentified correspondent in Riyadh; date not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-HAWADITH] Four non-Saudis were among the seven people executed recently in the kingdom. Is crime widespread among foreign workers?

[Prince Ahmad] It is natural for a number of professional criminals to slip in among visiting workers to commit their crimes in peaceful areas of the kingdom. We confront this to guarantee the safety of the kingdom's people and those residing in it. There are punishments and disciplinary actions. We do not implement these sentences during the blessed month of Ramadan; we implement them before or after it. This is why they sometimes pile up and are implemented at once. Like the crime of murder, death is the punishment for drug trafficking and drug smuggling. It is a natural thing when there are thousands of visiting workers.

[AL-HAWADITH] Is there a great deal of smuggling in the kingdom?

[Prince Ahmad] Smuggling is rife in the world and occurs everywhere. The process of combating drugs and drug smuggling is successful here and achieves most of the objectives required of it. The smuggling rate here is much less than in any other country.

[AL-HAWADITH] Were there sabotage actions in the kingdom which were not announced?

[Prince Ahmad] There is absolutely nothing of that kind. And all that was said in this connection was merely a lie.

[AL-HAWADITH] Are there in jail people who are detained because of their ideological and political opinions?

[Prince Ahmad] There are no prisoners held because of their ideological opinions or beliefs; rather, they are there for criminal reasons. Some of these use political motives as a pretext to cover criminal motives for their base actions. You heard about the bombing incident and the incident which occurred in the holy mosque in Mecca. The two incidents had nothing to do with politics. They are purely criminal acts whose perpetrators failed to ideologize them. They were condemned by all people. There are those who forge passports and documents, and their crime is an ordinary crime and purely criminal. So how can anyone claim that this has a political or ideological background?

[AL-HAWADITH] What about demonstrations, the distribution of cassettes, and the delivery of inflammatory and harmful speeches?

[Prince Ahmad] There are no demonstrations or actions opposed to the authorities. As for the speeches, they are not aimed at causing harm, but at expressing sound opinions about matters being raised like the Bosnia-Herzegovina issue and so on.

[AL-HAWADITH] Are there Islamic extremists in Saudi Arabia?

[Prince Ahmad] That phenomenon exists in every state, but extremism does not express itself in the kingdom in a way violating the law. Anything said contrary to this is untrue. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAWADITH] Do you contribute to combating terrorism in its new and dangerous sense?

[Prince Ahmad] Like any world state, we in the kingdom condemn all forms of terrorism, especially when its victims are among the innocent. Whatever the excuses of those who commit it, terrorism is terrorism and the number of its victims among the innocent is much greater than those targeted.

As for those who defend their homelands and usurped territories, their actions do not come into the category of terrorism. These are mujahidin and fighters. Terrorism is what goes beyond struggle against oppression and aggression.

[AL-HAWADITH] And do you cooperate with Interpol in this connection?

[Prince Ahmad] Yes, and with Arab security organs—that is, daily and continuously. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Sultan Qabus of Oman Arrives, Meets Shaykh Zayid

JN2604134993 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1250 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] Al-'Ayn, 26 Apr (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], held a closed session of talks with His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman here today.

The Omani News Agency [ONA] has said that the two leaders reviewed current Gulf and Arab issues and matters of mutual interest. They also discussed bilateral relations and ways of promoting them in various fields, ONA added.

Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id arrived in the city of al-'Ayn earlier today on a visit to the UAE.

Sultan Qabus Departs

JN2604182293 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1430 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Al-'Ayn, 26 Apr (WAKH)—His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman left al-'Ayn today after a short visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, UAE president, led those who saw off his majesty. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Preparations for First All-Yemen Election Reported

PM2304132793 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Apr 93 p 5

[Hammud Munsir and Lutfi Shatarah report: "Al-Ahmar Denies Concluding 'Secret Agreements' with Other Organizations"]

[Excerpts] Sanaa, Aden—While the tendency is to allow candidates more time to withdraw their nominations in order to give other candidates a chance at the wish of the two ruling parties, the Socialist Party and the [General] People's Congress, and make the final preparations for the general election to elect the first unified Yemeni parliament, Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmad, chief of the Hashid tribes and leader of the Yemeni Reform Grouping party, the two ruling parties' strong rival, has denied the existence of secret agreements between his party and any other political organization, including the two ruling parties.

Shaykh al-Ahmar said that his party's policy is clear and does not believe in secrecy, that the People's Congress and the Socialist Party are partners in power, and that he does not know what they are hatching between themselves for the future.

Al-Ahmar renewed the Yemeni Reform Grouping party's willingness to participate after the election in any coalition to form a government. He said: "That is our policy and conviction. Because Yemen needs all efforts to be pooled and all forces to shoulder their responsibility in this connection." [passage omitted]

Meanwhile the "national committee for free elections," an independent committee, has denounced the higher election committee's decision to prevent it from observing the election and to allow only international observers to do so. These observers include representatives from the U.S. Republican Institute, the U.S. Democratic Institute, and the European Parliament, in addition to representatives of the candidates themselves.

The committee has threatened to draw up an alternative plan to observe the election and guarantee its impartiality. It will request all the volunteers working within its framework to follow it on polling day, that is 27 April.

This plan will help the committee to carry out its task quietly and away from any confusion or fabricated obstacles.

At another level, press reports have said that nine candidates in four constituencies in Aden Governorate have withdrawn their nominations.

The reasons for withdrawing the nominations are not yet known, but some reports have said that the reason is a lack of funds to meet the expenses required for the election campaign and confront the major parties' huge campaign, which is covering vast areas of the governorate.

Two Candidates Killed in al-Zuhrah

NC2404150093 Paris AFP in English 1400 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Text] Sanaa, April 24 (AFP) - Six people, including two would-be Yemeni MPs, were shot and killed in the town of al-Zuhrah near the western port of al-Hudaydah during clashes between two leading political parties, police said Saturday.

They were the first election-related murders since the start of the campaign on April 18.

The killings occured on Thursday during an armed clash between members of the two main parties entering lists for Tuesday's legislative election, the first balloting for a unified Yemeni parliament since North and South Yemen became one country in May 1990.

The electoral campaign has been heating up in Yemen where one candidate, Yahya al-Sha'bi from the ruling General Popular Congress (GPC), and his rival from the Muslim fundamentalist Al-Islah party, Muhammad Al-Saghir al-Shami, as well as four of their supporters, were killed.

The al-Zuhrah region on the Red Sea is a stronghold of the GPC led by President Ali Abdallah Saleh. GPC and Al-Islah have put forward candidates in most districts for the election of 301 Yemeni MPs.

Police said tension remained high on Saturday in al-Zuhrah despite the intervention of the local authorities to restore peace and ensure the resumption of the election campaign.

A wave of political violence against officials of the GPC and Yemeni Socialist Party with which it shares power, has rocked the country since its unification.

'Personal Conflict' Said Behind Deaths

NC2504093093 Paris AFP in English 0850 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Sanaa, April 25 (AFP) - A personal conflict is behind a recent shootout between rival Yemeni political parties that left six people dead, including two parliamentary candidates, the two factions have said.

Shaykh 'Abdallah Ibn-Husayn al-Ahmar, head of the Muslim fundamentalist Al-Islah party, quoted Saturday by the official SABA news agency, said the incident in the western town of al-Zuhrah was caused by an old personal conflict between the two parties and not tied to Tuesday's parliamentary elections.

'Abd-al-Salam al-Ansi, a member of the ruling General Popular Congress told SABA the firefight had no relation to the electoral campaign between his movement and Al-Islah.

Police said six people, including two would-be MPs, were shot and killed Thursday in al-Zuhrah during clashes between the two leading political parties. [passage omitted]

Several Killed, Wounded by Police

NC2704055793 Paris AFP in English 2133 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] Sanaa, April 26 (AFP) - Several people were killed or wounded Monday when police opened fire on supporters of the pro-Islamic Al-Islah movement ahead of Tuesday's general elections in Yemen, party officials said.

"Shots were fired at a group of youngsters who were chanting pro-reform slogans after taking part in a meeting," in Aden province, 400 kilometers (250 miles) south of Sanaa, Al-Islah said in a statement. Police arrested several demonstrators, said the statement, adding that the numbers of dead, wounded and detained was unknown.

The incident happened as Yemen prepared to hold its first full legislative elections on Tuesday following unification of the country three years ago.

At least eight people, including two candidates, have been killed in the course of the election campaign, six of them near Hudeida in the west of the country, and fears of electoral fraud are high.

Some 35,000 security forces have been deployed at voting centers—20,000 forces in Sanaa alone—to counter any political unrest. The army is also being put on a state of alert.

AFP Previews Parliamentary Elections

NC2704061793 Paris AFP in English 0119 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Report by Jean-Eudes Barbier]

[Excerpts] Sanaa, April 26 (AFP) - Yemenis are voting Tuesday in the first full parliamentary elections since the unification of Yemen three years ago. Some 2.7 million people, including 500,000 women, are registered to vote for 301 members of the new parliament, according to official figures. But opposition members say there are less than two million voters.

Three thousand polling stations have been set up in 301 districts contested by 3,500 candidates representing 21 political parties, which have been legal since north and south Yemen united in May 1990.

In a first on the Arabian peninsula, 50 women are vying for parliamentary seats.

The two governing parties—the General People's Congress (GPC) of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and the Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) of Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid—and the Islamic movement Al-Islah will win most of the seats, Yemeni political sources said.

The three, which are fielding 850 candidates, have agreed on a power-sharing plan, the sources said.

Less powerful parties are the Nasserian Unionist Bloc and the Iraqi-influenced Ba'ath Party.

The presence of 3,000 opposition and independent candidates—including some who say they are close to the GPC, YSP and Al-Islah—is a sign of growing discontent in this country of 14 million people, observers say.

All public sectors—including the army—have been hit with a wave of strikes and protests, including one that led to bloodshed when authorities quelled it last December.

Yemeni newspapers in recent months have lashed out at the power held by General 'Abdallah Salih, while the opposition criticized him for failing to resolve the country's economic problems. The head of state is also openly accused of corruption, relying on brutal security forces and failing to stop crime and political violence.

The GPC, YSP and Al-Islah have promised to do everything possible to end corruption and to aim for liberal economic policies. All three have also pledged to defend multi-party politics, freedom of expression and the unity of Yemen.

Al-Islah is the only party to push for strict implementation of shari'ah, or Islamic law. Such a move would require a change in the constitution, which says the shari'ah is the "main" rather than the unique source of legislation. [passage omitted covered in referent item]

Some 35,000 security forces have been deployed at voting centers—20,000 forces in Sanaa alone—to counter any political unrest. The army is also being put on a state of alert.

Several dozen foreign observers will be present for the elections, but fraud is likely, opposition members say. The difference between official and opposition figures for registered voters gives the authorities room to pad results with fictitious votes, they charge.

Voters Head for Polls To Elect Assembly

JN2704063393 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Since early this morning, voters have been heading for election polls in all governorates of the republic to cast their votes to elect members of the Council of Representatives.

President Salih Said 'Satified'

JN2704084293 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] At 0800 today, and with great zeal and a high sense of national responsibility, voters who have registered their names in the election lists headed for the election polls to elect their representatives at the next Council of Representatives in the first democratic experience in our country since the achievement of Yemeni unity on 22 May 1990.

Colonel 'Ali Muhammad Salah, deputy chief of staff for military affairs and head of the operations room of the Higher Elections Committee, stated that the election process is proceeding well, and that no security violations have so far been recorded.

Meanwhile, Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, cast his vote at Constituency No. 11 in the capital along with crowds of citizens to elect members of the next Council of Representatives. Having cast his vote, the brother president made a statement to a radio correspondent:

[Begin Salih recording] I am happy with the measures that have been taken by the Higher Committee and by the basic and supervisory committees in the governorates. I am satisfied with the security arrangements and measures that have been taken. I am also satisfied with the public's behavior and standing in orderly, quiet queues to exercise their political rights. We take pride in this great, civilized behavior by our people. This is not unusual behavior by our Yemeni people, who have an ancient civilization. We are happy with what has happened today. I reiterate that I am very happy that calm prevails throughout the governorates, districts, and at all polling centers. This is what we have hoped for, and it has been achieved today. [end recording]

More on Surrendering Nuclear Fuel to IAEA

AU2704073793 Paris AFP in English 0201 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Vienna, April 27 (AFP)—Iraq has agreed in principle to allow the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to remove 35 kilograms (70 pounds) of nuclear fuel from a site southeast of Baghdad, IAEA spokesman David Kyd said here Monday.

The nuclear fuel, currently under seal at Tuwaythah, will "very likely" be sent to Russia, reliable sources said.

The operation will be by air, in two trips, and may begin in July and be completed towards the end of the year, the sources said. The cost, estimated at 20 million dollars, is to be borne by Baghdad under the U.N. sanctions imposed on Iraq in the wake of the Gulf war.

The agreement in principle between IAEA and Baghdad sets out the steps the Iraqis are to take before the dangerous materials are transported, and was signed last week by IAEA Deputy Director- General Maurizio Zifferero during a visit to Iraq, Kyd said. Zifferero returned to Vienna last weekend.

The IAEA must first sign a parallel agreement with Moscow, the sources said.

The "very complicated" operation involves "very delicate materials that must be carefully packaged," Kyd said, noting that the containers must be able to withstand the force of a possible plane crash to prevent contamination.

France and Britain had at first expressed interest in taking the nuclear fuel, which originated in Russia and France. Moscow later made a lower bid for carrying out the operation.

Al-Sahhaf Departs for Islamic Ministers Meeting

JN2304173893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1705 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Apr (INA)—Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf left Baghdad for Karachi today to attend six days of meetings within the framework of the 21st conference of the Islamic foreign ministers, which is set to open tomorrow.

The delegation includes a number of officials from the Foreign Ministry and the Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs. The items on the conference's agenda include the Palestine question, Somalia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kashmir, and Cyprus.

Al-Sahhaf Interviewed on Egypt, Arab Issues

JN2304195793 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Interview with Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf by radio correspondent Mustafa Bakri "on the sidelines of the 99th Arab League Ministerial Council meeting" in Cairo, carried within "The Event" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Bakri] Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al- Sahhaf, you recently took part in the 99th Arab League Ministerial Council meeting amid a positive atmosphere concerning talk about the restoration of Arab solidarity. According to your own assessment, what is the extent of Arab solidarity that can be achieved, and does this agree with what was published in the Iraqi newspaper BABIL that Kuwait is the 19th governorate?

[Al-Sahhaf] There is an atmosphere that could help in taking a number of steps provided there is a serious desire and political decision on the part of sincere Arab parties that are concerned with creating a suitable climate for Arab solidarity and joint Arab action.

On the agenda of the 99th Arab League Ministerial Council meeting one would find some articles pertaining to joint Arab action. As dictated by Iraq's foreign policy, the Iraqi delegation is doing its best to strengthen and develop points which would qualify joint Arab action to bear more fruit. The Iraqi delegation worked within this framework. Iraq's stand and policy are very clear on joint Arab action and Arab solidarity. Despite the aggression against it, Iraq announced, on more than one occasion, that its willingness will continue to be the same within the framework of fruitful pan-Arab action. Iraq is willing to participate with all those who have the desire and the same honest and serious conviction to achieve Arab solidarity. And we will continue to work accordingly.

As for the last part of your question concerning the Iraqi newspaper BABIL. It is a free newspaper and has the right to publish its convictions. This issue totally differs from and does not relate to Iraq's official activities at the Arab League or within its network of international relations. I see no link between the two issues.

[Bakri] Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat recently conducted mediation efforts between Egypt and Iraq. Were did these efforts reach?

[Al-Sahhaf] I am not aware of specific efforts by Palestinian president 'Arafat. However, I can tell you that Iraq's policy is clear and declared within the framework of Arab solidarity. We emphasized, more than once, at various official levels that Iraq welcomes and is willing to achieve joint Arab action and to develop relations with any Arab party that conveys the same political decision and serious willingness to achieve joint action and devlop relations that serve the interest of the Arab nation. This applies to all cases.

[Bakri] Do you believe there is a change in the Egyptian arena concerning Egypt's stand toward Iraq that could actually lead to the normalization of Egyptian-Iraqi relations?

[Al-Sahhaf] If you would allow me. I want to answer this question in the same way I answered your previous one. The Iraqi stand toward the relationship between Egypt

and Iraq is very clear. Every Arab party has the same desire, willingness, political decision, and seriousness to keep relations at their best and to build joint Arab action on sound bases. This issue applies to all of us.

[Bakri] Thanks to Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf.

Iran Accused of Lying Over POW Release

JN2604144593 Baghdad INA in English 1210 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] Baghdad, Apr. 26, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily, organ of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party has confirmed that the characteristic of lying has become a major part in the policy of the Iranian regime.

A daily article has said the Iranian regime has once again lied when it claimed that it has released 200 Iraqi prisoners of war (POW's) from those held by them during the Iraq-Iran war.

It added that the Iranian regime knew very well that those who were released are not POW's but among the thousands of Iraqi military men forced to enter the Iranian territories during the sabotage chapter in 1991 and detained by the Iranian authorities without any legal justification.

The daily expressed its non-surprise regarding Iran's lie because this regime has been for 14 years practising charlatanry and lying on the Iranians and the world. It has said this is not the first time in which Tehran's regime lies concerning the issues of POW's. It has formerly announced more than once the release of a number of POW's while it was only releasing military men detained in 1991.

The daily has said that the Iranian regime has since 1988 been dillydallying and lying with regard to the fate of thousands of Iraqi POW's registered at the International Committee of the Red Cross in addition to those who have not been registered and whom it continues detaining them despite the ceasefire agreement between the two countries and despite its pledge in Geneva to release all the POW's in its camps.

It has added that Iran sees the Iraq POW's held by it as if being hostages and not POW's and not to be released but against a political and financial price gained by it.

The daily pointed out that Iran had been mistaken in supposing its ability to extort Iraq and achieve illegal political purposes in return of releasing the POW's. It has stressed that the Iranian regime behaviour confirms its violation of the international law and denial of the principles of Islamic law.

Ba'th Official Urges Turkey To Reconsider Policy

JN2604144193 Baghdad INA in English 1217 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] Baghdad, Apr. 26, INA—An Iraqi prominent political analyst and writer has called upon the Turkish ruling party and opposition to rectify the course of bilateral relations between Iraq and Turkey proceeding from principles of good neighbourlihood [as received].

Member of the regional command of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur has said in an analytical article published in AL-THAWRAH daily for today that the former Turkish President Turgut Ozal was adopting a stand against the return to normal the Iraqi-Turkish relation in the manner serving interest of the two neighbourly peoples and countries.

He has added that Ozal has used the Iraqi [as received] territories a place from where aircraft of hostile coalition forces take off in the way offending the good neighbourhood and impinging Turkey's sovereignty. He has made it clear that Turkey has participated, under insistence of Ozal, in imposing blockade on Iraq despite Turkey's losses because of stoppage of oil flow through Iraqi pipelines passing its territories and halt of trade movement between the two countries.

Mr. 'Abd-al-Ghafur has stressed in his article on termination of the hostile forces presence and finding ways leading to Turkey's contributions to breaking the blockade on Iraq that would be an essential factor in expressing Turkish interests.

He has further said that continuation of blockade on Iraq would leave apparent negative results on the Turkish economy and create a crack between the Arab nation and Turkey, proceeding from the Iraq represents spirit of the Arab nation and expresses hopes of its masses. [sentence as received]

Mr. 'Abd-al-Ghafur has further emphasized that the Turkish national and humanitarian duty dictates serious war for refusing the iniquitous blockade and bears the friends in the Turkish Parliament the responsibility for redoubling the effort in this respect.

The Iraqi political writer has requested from all Turkish parties to vote against deployment of the hostile alliance forces in Turkey's territories because it is an unjustifiable presence both religiously and humanitarily [as received] in addition to its offending the historical neighbourhood relations between Iraq and Turkey.

AL-QADISIYAH Expects 'Grave Changes' in Egypt

JN2404131293 Baghdad INA in English 1218 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Text] Baghdad, Apr. 24, INA—AL-QADISIYAH daily, organ of the Ministry of Defence, expected that the serious developments witnessed by Egypt would in the short run lead to grave changes.

In an analysis published today, the daily did not rule out that the expected changes would affect the highest levels in the ruling regime.

The paper said that what was happening in Egypt had not come on the spur of the moment, neither was it a marginal product, but it was a logical result based on a set of priorities and material, social and psychological factors dated back to many years.

It focussed on the reasons that threw Egypt into turmoil, in the forefront of which the fact that Husni Mubarak had distanced Egypt from all that was Arab in affiliation and tendency.

It stressed that Mubarak imagined that his alliance with the Arab nation's enemies and agents could secure protection for his regime and help him keep a tight hold on power.

The paper pointed out that the Egyptian regime's failure to solve many social and economic crises had contributed to the growing unrest in the country.

It cast doubts about the effectiveness of the recent measure taken by the Egyptian Government to handle the activities of the opposition, referring to the sacking of Interior Minister Muhammad Abd-al-Halim Musa.

Commenting on these events, BABIL newspaper described the rapid developments there as reflecting a crisis of regime rather than of administration.

It referred to the decision to appoint nine new governors and the attempt on Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif's life.

Clinton Called 'Accomplice in Zionist Crimes'

JN2404095893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Apr (INA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH has criticized President Bill Clinton's statement during the ceremony held by the American Zionist Agency in Washington the day before yesterday. The paper says that Clinton's statement reiterates the U.S. Administration's insistence on absolving the Zionists of their fascist practices against the Palestinian Arab people. During the ceremony, the President spoke about the humanity of the Zionists, defended their repressive practices in occupied Palestine, and lambasted Iraq's alleged violations of human rights.

In an article today, AL-JUMHURIYAH expresses deep regret over Clinton's disregard of facts and realities while speaking about human rights and leveling accusations against Iraq. The paper adds: By doing so, Clinton has not departed from the official American stands that are biased toward the Zionists, who stained the pages of human history with innocent blood.

AL-QADISIYAH describes Clinton's stand, which is biased toward the Zionists and hostile to Iraq, as irritating. The paper says: The U.S. president and the other leaders of the aggressive alliance against the people of Iraq have become advocates of falsehood after employing all their aggressive military capabilities to distort facts, deprive people of their will, and subjugate regimes to serve their objectives and interests.

The paper considers the U.S. President an accomplice in Zionist crimes against the people of Palestine. The paper says: He who absolves the Zionists of their crimes against Palestinian rights and defends their bloody practices against women, old men, and children in the occupied territory cannot but be an accomplice in these crimes and his hands cannot but be stained, like them, with innocent blood.

Tariq 'Aziz Receives PFLP Delegation

JN2504185593 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, Revolution Command Council member and official in charge of the Arab Liberation Movements Bureau, today received a delegation from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] under 'Abd-al-Rahim Malluh, PFLP Political Bureau member. The officials discussed bilateral ties and current developments in the Palestinian and Arab arenas.

Tariq 'Aziz reaffirmed Iraq's firm position toward our Palestinian Arab people and support for their legitimate struggle to regain their legitimate historical rights.

Mr. Malluh praised the great Iraqi people's confrontation of the forces of evil in their 30-state aggression and their steadfastness in the face of the unjust blockade. He expressed admiration and pride in the miracles the glorious Iraqis scored in their reconstruction campaign. He affirmed the Palestinian people's support for the people and leadership of Iraq in their major duel.

Saddam Attends Military Parade in Baghdad

JN2604174893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1725 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Apr (INA)—Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, today attended a military parade known as "The Mother of Battles Parade" in Baghdad, the crown of the country, the glorious jewel, and the beacon upholding civilization and jihad.

Most ranks of the Army and the Armed Forces, along with their equipment, took part in the parade to mark the birthday of the people's beloved leader Saddam Husayn. Thus, our valiant Armed Forces have confirmed that they are the arm of the people and the nation destined to fight and emerge victorious.

INA has learned that Iraqi television will air at 2200, Baghdad time [1800 GMT], today the proceedings of the parade of the immortal "Mother of Battles," the glorious, historic, and cultural battle waged and engineered by leader Saddam Husayn.

Further on Military Parade

JN2604190493 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] His Excellency President Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, may God protect him, today patronized and attended the military parade of the Mother of Battles staged by our valiant Armed Forces to mark the auspicious birthday of his excellency the president.

His Excellency leader President Saddam Husayn arrived at the parade site in a solemn official motorcade. He was accompanied by Staff General fighter 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces. His excellency the president was welcomed upon arrival at the gate of the grand ceremony site by Staff General fighter 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, RCC member and minister of defense. When his excellency the president mounted the honor dais, a band played the Iraqi national anthem.

The parade was then inaugurated by a Koranic recitation. Afterward, the attendees stood to read the Opening Chapter of the Koran to invoke God's mercy on the souls of Iraqi and Arab martyrs. Afterward, Staff Lieutenant General fighter Muhammad 'Abd-al-Qadir, assistant Army chief of staff and commander of the parade, asked for the president's permission to begin the parade. Once permission was granted by his excellency the president, the parade began with the appearance of the Mother of Battles commander squad and the bearers of the Iraqi flag. These two groups were followed by a group bearing the Iraqi Republican insignia and a squad of fighters bearing a portrait of the leader president, may God protect him. These groups were followed by a group of soldiers carrying flags of Arab states and a group of soldiers carrying flags of the classes of the Iraqi Army.

Columns representing the Military Academy, the Air Force Command, the Naval Force Command, the Police Academy, and the Republican Guard; dismounted columns representing the corps commands; and the column of the Special Republican Guard marched in the parade. They were followed by military bands—the God Is Great Formation.

Mounted columns representing the Infantry Corps, the Signal Corps, the Artillery Corps, the Air Defense, surface-to-surface missiles, the Military Engineering Corps, the Supply Corps, the Transportation Corps, and the Mechanical Electrical Engineering Corps also marched in the parade. These were followed by armored columns. At the beginning, a group of cavaliers, armored vehicles, armored personnel carriers, and tanks went into parade, while the brave hawks of the air flew overhead in various formations using different types of planes from our brave Air Force.

The brave knights of the Helicopter Corp also went into parade in front of leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, using different kinds of helicopters and fixed-wing planes.

At the end of the parade, the Army band played the Republic's anthem, and his excellency greeted the crowds, thanking God for granting Iraq this power and determination despite all the aggressors' attempts.

The parade was attended by the members of the Ba'th Party National Command, members of the RCC, members of the Ba'th Party Iraq Command, government ministers, members of the Armed Forces General Command, National Assembly members, and a crowd of dear citizens.

Ministry Reports Statistics on Deaths Due To Embargo

JN2504080393 Baghdad INA in English 1230 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Text] Baghdad, Apr. 24, INA—Recent statistics released by the Ministry of Health show that fatalities among the Iraqis during March, 1993 have risen sharply in comparison with the last year's figures of the same month, due to the dearth of food and medicines caused by the U.N.-imposed trade sanctions.

A report by the ministry indicated that some 4,647 Iraqis have died over the said period because of the continuation of the unjust economic sanctions.

As usual the children are hit hardest by the sanctions. According to the report, some 3,409 children under the age of five perished because of diarrhoea, malnutrition and peneumonia diseases, while some 1,238 people over the age of 50 died because of diabetes, hypertension and malignant tumours.

The ministry's report noted that during March 1989 (a year before the sanctions), the number of children struck by malnutrition-related diseases was only 86, whereas the number of children fatalities over the same period in 1993 reached some 1,500, scoring an almost 1,644 per cent increase.

Moreover, the report indicated that diarrhoea had claimed the lives of 110 children under the age of five over the month of March 1989. The figure jumped to 818 during the same period of 1993, scoring an increase of 644 per cent.

The number of children fatalities because of peneumonia during March 1993 recorded a sharp increase of 557 per cent, the report pointed out, indicating that the number of deaths registered during March 1989 was only 166 in comparison with some 1,091 over the same period in 1993.

Health officials blamed the deterioration of children's health on the lack of sufficient quantities of milk which, in turn, causes severe malnutrition and weakens immunity to microbes.

As for patrients who suffer from chronic diseases, the report noted that hupertension, diabetes and cancer were the main causes of the death of some 1,238 people.

According to the ministry's report, some 103 people died of hyertension over the month of March 1989, compared to 301 who died over the same period in 1993.

In the meantime, fatalities caused by diabetes registered a sharp rise in March 1993 said the report, adding that 162 people have died during March 1993, compared with 106 fatalities for the same period in 1989, scoring an almost 35 per cent increase.

Furthermore, some 775 people who have been previously suffering from malignant tumours have died during March 1993 compared with 198 over the same period in 1989.

Earlier, the nuclear and radioactive therapy hospital had said people who suffer from maligiant tumours can no longer receive adequate radio-therapy as a result of shortage of medicines caused by the embargo.

A report issued by the said hospital indicated that its departments face sharp shortages of chemical and hormone medicines, the absence of the cobalt radioactive element needed for the treatment of malignant tumours has hit plans to treat people in bad need for radioactive therapy.

According to statistics and surveys, the number of Iraqis who have died as a result of the post-war sanctions is more than that during the actual battle. The U.N. sanctions [words indistinct] shrunk food supplies and pressed most of the country's 18 million people into despair.

Long-range health plans to combat certain epidemics crumbled during the past two years as lack of funds and necessary medical supplies made it impossible for health officials to continue the programme.

Large portion of the population are currently threatened by death. There is the risk of dangerous epidemics spreading quickly in many areas. Lack of sanitation and absence of hygienic conditions are contributing to the spread of a host of diseases including hepatitis, typhoid as well as cholera.

Hence, the situation will continue to deteriorate and people will continue to suffer unless an immediate action is taken to put an end to the over-two-year economic sanctions clamped on Iraq and avert the looming catastrophe.

Separate Agriculture, Irrigation Ministries Decreed

JN2404150693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1155 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Apr (INA)—The Revolution Command Council [RCC] has issued two decrees providing for the issuance of Agriculture Ministry Law No. 7 for 1993 and Irrigation Ministry Law No. 8 for 1993.

The reasons listed for the issuance of Law No. 7 say that it has been decided to set up an independent Ministry of Agriculture to achieve agricultural development in Iraq, increase productivity with the aim of realizing self-sufficiency, promote modern agricultural techniques, and to conduct and apply agricultural research papers.

The reasons listed for the issuance of Law No. 8 say that it has been decided to set up an independent Ministry of Irrigation to develop and enhance water resources; secure the best exploitation of water; to study, design, and build dams and irrigation and soil desalination projects; and to reclaim land in Iraq.

Finance Minister Inaugurates New Private, Islamic Bank

JN2504161893 Baghdad INA in English 1545 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Text] Baghdad, Apr. 25. INA—A new private bank at a capital of I.D. [Iraqi dinars] 146 million, the third of its kind in Iraq, was today inaugurated by Finance Miniser Ahmad Husayn on behalf of President Saddam Husayn.

In an inaugural speech, Mr. Husayn described the setting up of the "Iraqi Islamic Bank for Investment and Development" as a unique pioneering financial establishment that would participate alongside other private and state banks in boosting the national economy.

He said in spite of the extraordinary conditions faced by Iraq due the U.S.-led aggression and the continuation of the unjust blockade, banking services are being rendered to the people to meet mounting transactions in the country.

Mr. Husayn said the new bank would be the first financial commission to adopt banking activities based on the Islamic code and to consolidate the economic and social development process in the country.

Chairman of the bank's Board of Directors, Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif Humaym said the establishing of the Iraqi Islamic Bank for Investment and Development was "a qualitative indicator in the economic development in Iraq."

He said the bank would deal with all banking activities based on the Islamic economic theory.

Two private banks, Baghdad Bank and the Commercial Bank, have already been established in Iraq and opened branches throughout the country.

Radio Announces New Kurdistan Government

NC2604175693 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1643 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] In accordance with the provisions of Article III of the Iraqi Kurdistan Council of Ministers' Law No. 3 for the year 1992, the Kurdish parliament announced the formation of the second regional government in Kurdistan on 25 April 1993. The following gentlemen have been appointed:

Kosrat 'Abdallah Rasul	prime minister
Rawj Nuri Shawij	deputy prime minister
Jabbar Farman 'Ali Akbar	minister for peshmerga affairs
Yunus Salim Rujbani	minister of interior
Nasih Ghafur Ramadan	minister of education
Muhammad Tawfiq Rahim	minister of aid and human affairs
Daru al-Shaykh Nuri	minister of finance and economy
Shirku Fa'iq 'Abdallah Bakus	minister of culture
Muhammad Amin Mawlud	minister of industry and energy
Sa'di Ahmad Sira	minister of agriculture and irrigation
Kamal Shakir Muhammad	minister of health and social affairs
Katya Sulayman 'Abdallah	minister of municipalities and tourism
Muhammad 'Abd-al-Qadir Ahmad	minister of awqaf and Islamic affairs
Idris Hadi Salih	minister of transport and communications
Ma'mun Nur Muhammad Buriskani	minister of development and construction
Qadir 'Aziz Muhammad Jabari	minister of justice
Yunadin Yusuf Kaffa	minister of works and housing

Kurdistan Government Takes Constitutional Oath

NC2504191693 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Text] The new ministers of the Kurdistan government under brother Kosrat 'Abdallah Rasul took the constitutional oath before parliament today.

It should be recalled that three ministers of the previous government have been replaced. The new portfolios were given to the following:

1. Jabbar Farman 'Ali Akbar, member of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan's [PUK] Political Bureau, has been appointed minister for peshmerga affairs;

2. Daru al-Shaykh Nuri, member of the PUK leadership, has been appointed minister of finance and economy; and

3. Sa'di Ahmad Sira [not further identified] has been appointed minister of agriculture and irrigation.

Rebel Radio Reports 'Air Show' Over Baghdad

NC2404161593 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Text] Large numbers of the tyrant regime's warplanes have overflown Baghdad at low altitude. Upwards of 150 planes have been flying in formation above the capital from west to east. Baghdad has been the scene of bloody incidents the last few days following an attempt to kidnap the regime's interior minister. Shots have been heard and the regime forces have imposed a siege on parts of the city.

Observers believe today's overflights are linked to these incidents. The tyrant's regime fears that its frightening posture at home may be shaken, causing further defiance to it and accelerating its fall.

It should be mentioned that Saddam regime's warplanes are banned from flying over the two no-fly zones in the north and south; they are shot down as soon as they take to the skies there. This consolidates the conviction that the recent air show over Baghdad was meant to terrorize citizens.

[Paris AFP in English at 1322 GMT on 23 April, in a Baghdad-datelined report, adds: "Some 50 Iraqi warplanes on Friday flew low over Baghdad for the second day running in what seemed like preparation for an air show, witnesses said. They said the planes flew in formation above the capital on Thursday with an even larger number taking to the skies on Friday.

"Iraq is preparing to celebrate President Saddam Husayn's 57th birthday on April 28, according to press reports. On Wednesday, the air force celebrated the 62nd anniversary of its creation.

"On April 3, the air force took part in live-fire exercises involving armored vehicles, commando units and artillery, Baghdad said."]

Islamic Resistance Attacks, Destroys Police Post

NC2604175093 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1330 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] The Islamic resistance forces last week carried out a heroic operation in which they were able to destroy al-Intisar police post in [placename indistinct], al-'Amarah Governorate.

Our sources affirm that the attack resulted in the complete destruction of the post and the death or injury of the regime henchmen manning it. Two of them were identified as a police sergeant and a warrant officer. Following the attack, the regime's security authorities carried out several measures, including setting additional (?temporary) control posts to restrict movement along the main roads leading to the city of al-'Amarah to search travelers. They also arrested a number of citizens and subjected them to brutal torture.

Minister Urges Ceding Golan Sovereignty To Achieve Peace

TA2604190993 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Studio interview with Environment Minister Yosi Sarid by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik—live]

[Text] [Sukenik] We are hosting Environment Minister Yosi Sarid of Meretz. Good evening to you, Minister Sarid.

[Sarid] Good evening.

[Sukenik] We have heard that Prime Minister Rabin has already told the Syrians, and will in fact reiterate this through his delegates in Washington tomorrow, that the Syrians must first of all say how they view the peace before Israel will divulge the extent of withdrawal on the Golan Heights. Is this your position as well?

[Sarid] More or less. I think we can achieve peace with Syria and an interim arrangement with the Palestinians within several months. However, it is a complete fallacy to maintain that total peace can be achieved with Syria while Israel preserves its sovereignty over the Golan Heights. In order to attain peace with Syria we must forgo our sovereignty over the Golan Heights.

[Sukenik] Do you mean that we should inform the Syrians before the negotiations begin that we are willing to implement a complete withdrawal from the Golan Heights, and only then will the Syrians have to tell us what they mean by peace?

[Sarid] Yes. There are two things, however, that Israel and the Israeli Government cannot forgo by any means, and over which Israel will fight with all its power and without any compromises: The first thing touches the substance of peace. This peace must be complete and normal, just as it is between any two normal countries. It must include diplomatic relations, tourism ties, free passage of persons and goods, and other outstanding characteristics of full peace. The second thing, which is even more important, is security arrangements, which must be as strict and tight as possible. We will fight over this issue without any compromises. The basis of the interim arrangements will be the principle of gradualness. This principle gives us time—and I am referring to a period of many years—to test whether we are dealing here with a stable and deep- rooted peace, or whether it is only a deceptive peace.

[Sukenik] Minister Sarid, you know that the prime minister—not to mention the opposition—will be extremely dissatisfied with what you are saying, because this is not the way he would like to proceed in the negotiations. People will say that you are harming the negotiations by coming out with such remarks on the eve of their resumption. What is your reaction?

[Sarid] First, I do not know whether the prime minister will like what I said or not. We have our own platform and views and we are fully entitled to voice our views. So-called experts in the art of negotiations, especially those coming from the right, say we should not reveal our cards and state the price beforehand. There are negotiations, however, which must begin from the end, otherwise they have no chances of success. I learned this wisdom from Menahem Begin, Moshe Dayan, and 'Ezer Weizman, who during their first meeting with the Egyptians relinquished Israeli sovereignty over the entire Sinai. Only then did they proceed from this final position to the beginning, and on the basis of this end result of the negotiations they determined all the necessary arrangements, including security arrangements.

[Sukenik] Thank you very much, Minister Yosi Sarid.

Baraq on Regional Situation, Peace Process

TA2604131193 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0945 GMT 26 Apr 93

["Special Independence Day" interview with Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq by Moshe Shlonsky and Netan'el Semrik—live]

[Excerpts] [Shlonsky] Happy Independence Day to Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq.

[Baraq] And a happy Independence Day to you. I would like to use this opportunity to wish a happy holiday to all IDF [Israel Defense Forces] servicemen, to the Army's civilian employees, to the wounded and crippled, to all the bereaved families, to all Israeli POW's, MIA's and their families, and to the entire Israeli people. I fervently hope that the coming year will be one of peace and security.

Since we are talking about peace and security, it should be noted that a new round of talks between the Israeli and Arab delegations will open in Washington this week. There is the distinct feeling that something will either happen this year or else the opportunity will be lost for several more years.

[Shlonsky] To what degree is the IDF involved in the peace negotiations from the viewpoint of assessments or military deployment?

[Baraq] First of all, I truly believe that this year will be of crucial importance. Perhaps these decisive developments will not actually take place during 1993, but in my opinion, toward the end of the year, we will know whether we are in the midst of a serious and substantive political process that really seeks to clarify the details of a possible agreement between Israel and the Arab countries and the Palestinians, or whether we are simply moving toward a dead end. The IDF, for its part, is involved to the extent that is required to fulfill its tasks. The political element leads on such matters and that is only natural and appropriate. Whenever the IDF is asked for its professional assessment, it will be prepared to give it.

[Shlonsky] Do these military assessments generally limit themselves to listing various options, or do they also indicate which alternative is preferable?

[Baraq] We are not talking about issues that the senior political echelon is totally unfamiliar with from their own experiences in the military or security services, especially not today's leaders. However, after major political decisions have been made, these assessments will ultimately deal with the formulation of the security aspect of the subsequent arrangements and play a role in the debate over the operational details, timetables, and the significance of various alternatives in the negotiations.

[Shlonsky] Do you feel that Syria is more ready to reach peace today than it was before the Gulf War?

[Baraq] I think that the results of the Gulf War, especially the defeat of Iraq and the fact that an international coalition proved capable of united action against a regional tyrant who was trying to throw his weight around, strengthened a realization that al-Asad had already begun formulating earlier. In essence, al-Asad understood that without the Soviet Union, and with Egypt out of the game for all practical purposes, it would be difficult to initiate an Arab war against Israel. The defeat of the Iraqi tyrant and the situation Saddam Husayn still finds himself in further limits such possibilities in the future.

[Semrik] Chief of Staff Baraq, let us turn to the Palestinian angle. The Palestinian delegation is disunited following the wave of terrorism, the prolonged closure, and increased IDF activity within the territories. Do you think that this situation harms the prospects of talks along the Palestinian track?

[Baraq] I do not know. I believe it would have been much more harmful to the peace talks if, while the talks were going on, Israelis were murdered in Israel by Palestinian workers, or settlers murdered by their Palestinian workers. Consequently, the closure is extremely important, mainly by putting an end to the series of attacks and returning the security—albeit not total security—to the citizens of Israel. We are taking advantage of this situation to effectively hunt down the fugitives, and the results are very successful. I believe that just as when the terror attacks reached their peak we said there is no connection between our struggle against terrorism and the political negotiations, so now we should not create such an artificial linkage when we are successfully struggling against the terrorists. [passage omitted]

[Shlonsky] Lt. Gen. Baraq, there is a lot of talk about Iran as a new power, perhaps even a nuclear power. Syria, while evincing willingness to march toward peace, is also stockpiling huge quantities of arms. Something is happening in the Middle East. How would you describe Israel's security situation two years after the Gulf War and on the eve of the ninth round of talks in Washington?

[Baraq] Look, the entire world was profoundly shaken by the end of the cold war, and we are feeling the side effects of this process. The Iran-Iraq war has ended. Iraq's defeat in the Gulf War and the loss of superpower support for the Arabs, mainly Syria, have created a new situation. We are faced with immediate threats within the framework of this new situation. Syria is the only country which can launch a war against Israel within several months, if it decides to do so. I believe it would be defeated in such a war, but it is not inconceivable that it could reach such a decision, that it will want to score a partial success in order to facilitate negotiations. I do not think it will do so.

I believe that the Syrians understand very well that negotiations are the best way in the present international constellation to pursue their objectives. They believe that they can obtain at least large segments of the Golan Heights in the political process—I am not permitted to express my personal opinion whether their assessment is correct or not. They also realize their chances of obtaining this goal in negotiations are much better than by force, because it is very conceivable that by pursuing this latter course they will find Damascus surrounded by Israeli divisions within several days. This picture is clear.

Since, however, they too do not know how things will turn out in the talks they are at the same time purchasing weapons. I think they are doing this because they do not know how the talks will end, and also because they think that if the political process reaches a stalemate they could turn to their Arab friends and tell them that they tried the path of political talks. They will claim that Israel's intransigence has not enabled them to attain a satisfactory arrangement, and now they have no choice but to unite the Arab forces for exercising force against Israel. From their viewpoint they must prepare for this possibility by preserving their sources of supply, the size of their Army, and the internal preparedness of Syrian society in anticipation of such a possibility.

[Shlonsky] What is the significance of this situation as far as Israel is concerned?

[Baraq] I think that from the strategic point of view we are in better shape than we have been in the last 15-10 years. I know that this statement is reminiscent of similar statements that were repeatedly made prior to past wars. I truly believe, however, that fundamentally this situation, in which all the surrounding states and the Palestinians are directly negotiating over a political settlement with us, in which Iraq is a beaten country, in which we have a de facto coexistence with Jordan—Lebanon never constituted a real threat to Israel—and in which Syria, which is the only country that can do anything, is also negotiating with us, I believe that this is a comfortable strategic situation for us. This does not mean that there are no long-term threats. Earlier you mentioned Iran, which constitutes one of these threats. The main long-term danger—yet this danger is many years off—is the surfacing of Arab nonconventional power, especially nuclear power. This prospect is very

problematic. We must admit, however, that this danger does not concern Israel alone. Iran would still build up its Army and attempt to attain nuclear power even if Israel did not exist in the region. Iran uses Israel as an emblem for its struggle, but since it is threatening the Persian Gulf, the free flow of oil, and the stability of more pragmatic Arab regimes surrounding them, I believe that the international community, under U.S. leadership, should deal with the Iranian challenge.

Egyptian Ambassador Hopes for 'Fruitful' Talks

TA2604161893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] Muhammad Basyuni, Egypt's ambassador to Israel, assesses that the upcoming round of peace talks will be fruitful. Mr. Basyuni told our correspondent Mira Amsalem that he believes we are at a crossroads: A success in the talks will move the region toward peace, whereas failure could precipitate a crisis and a disaster. Ambassador Basyuni made these remarks in a reception to the diplomatic corps at the president's residence, attended by 700 guests, among them representatives of countries which have established diplomatic ties with Israel only this year.

Deportees March Toward Checkpoint To Protest Peace Talks

TA2604191493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] The deportees in south Lebanon reached a distance of 350 meters from the Zummarayya checkpoint this afternoon and halted their march when several shells were fired in their direction. Later they apparently retreated to about 1,000 meters from the crossing and set up a temporary encampment. Deportees spokesman 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rantisi said the nearly 400 deportees would stage a sit-in at the site tonight and decide their next move tomorrow. They are protesting the renewal of Middle East peace talks.

Christopher Remarks Seen as Intention Not To Discriminate

TA2704104893 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 27 Apr 93 p 7

[Editorial: "With Both Hands"]

[Text] It was not Warren Christopher who coined the term "evenhanded policy" in its Israeli-Arab context. Neither was Pennsylvania Governor William Cranston (who was sent to the Middle East on an exploratory mission by President Richard Nixon almost a quarter of a century ago) the first to use this term, although he was the one who introduced it into local jargon. They were preceded by other statesmen and officials in the Eisenhower and Kennedy administrations; that is, before the Six-Day War. All of them resorted to the image of two equal hands offsetting each other, without discriminating either in favor or against one of the sides.

Christopher had barely started his speech last week when he voiced this yearning of the administration. President Clinton's secretary of state agreed to address the annual conference of the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee to balance his appearance before AIPAC [American Israel Public Affairs Committee] the month before. This should teach Israeli lobbyists—who lobbied intensely before Christopher consented to appear before them a week after Prime Minister Rabin's visit to the White House—that any public achievement they score will eventually be balanced by a similar Arab accomplishment.

The reason for Christopher's address was the resumption of the Arab-Israeli talks in Washington today, almost four and a half months after they recessed. He was trying to diffuse opposition to the resumption of the talks, seeing that the Palestinians are at a double disadvantage compared with their position in the previous round of talks last December, owing to the deportations and the closure. Christopher explicitly stated that the talks are aimed at moving from the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip to self- government en route to a permanent arrangement. Therefore, the Palestinian interest lies in getting the talks started (again), without waiting in vain for the fulfillment of preconditions, not to mention that the Rabin government has quietly promised to effect a series of positive measures regarding human and civil rights in the territories.

Astonishingly enough, Christopher was speaking through the mouth of his predecessor, James Baker, who had almost totally vanished from the scene after George Bush's defeat in the elections and who resurfaced only last week at the funeral of Turkish President Turgut Ozal. In the wake of the Gulf war, the launching of the Madrid conference, and Clinton taking over from Bush, the resemblance between Baker's words four years ago (during negotiations with the Shamir government and the PLO about an Israeli-Palestinian meeting in Cairo) and those of Christopher is no coincidence, seeing that administration officials have hardly changed, and they are usually the men who write the speeches. The big question is how much effort and prestige the President and his secretary of state will be prepared to invest to push the Arab-Israeli rock up the hill, as Sisyphus did. Clinton and Christopher have so far signaled their willingness to tackle the job with both hands, the same two hands that will meticulously weigh exact equality between Israelis and Arabs, peace and security, the territories and aid. The heads of the U.S. Administration, however, have not yet been put to the test they are bound to encounter when the talks reach a crisis over substance.

Cooperation With U.S., Egypt on Islamic Fundamentalism

TA2504124993 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 25 Apr 93 p 2

[Report by Pe'erli Shahar]

[Text] The United States, Egypt, and Israel have recently increased their cooperation on the ways to fight Islamic fundamentalism.

Secret consultations on the issue have recently been held by senior political and military elements in the United States, Israel, and Egypt.

It has been learned that the reported visit of the CIA director to Israel and Egypt, Defense Ministry Director General David 'Ivri's visit to Egypt, and the lightning visit here of Egyptian presidential aide Usamah al-Baz are related to the concern shared by the three countries about the growing support for Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Brotherhood.

'Ivri Returns From 24-Hour Visit to Cairo

TA2304125193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Reserves Major General David 'Ivri, director general of the Defense Ministry, returned from a 24-hour visit to Cairo to see to technical preparations for continuing the multilateral talks on arms control and regional security. This is reported by our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe.

Gaza Woman Dies; Attempted Stabbing Foiled in 'Akko

TA2604180993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] A woman from the al-Nusayrat refugee camp died of her wounds this afternoon at al-Shifa' Hospital in Gaza. Gaza residents say 33-year-old Najah Abu-Talal was wounded by Army gunfire during disturbances at the camp last week. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is investigating her death.

In Dayr al-Balah in the Gaza Strip several shots were fired this morning at IDF soldiers. No one was injured.

Investigators say they believe the Arab youth who tried to stab a policeman on the 'Akko promenade today is active in the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] movement. Questioned after the incident, the assailant said he had studied in the Islamic college in Gaza, and that Hamas leaders instructed him to carry out knifing attacks. The policeman was not hurt in the attempted attack. The attacker is a resident of 'Akko's old city. He attempted to disguise himself as a Jew by wearing a skullcap, but passersby who spotted him became suspicious and alerted police. As a police officer approached him he fled, then suddenly turned around and pulled a knife.

Boy Killed by IDF Gunfire in Khan Yunus Incident

TA2604192493 Jerusalem Qol Yis.a'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] Ahmad Hamdan, 12, was killed in a stone throwing incident in the Amal neighborhood of Khan Yunus by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers' gunfire this evening.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that several shots were directed at an IDF patrol in Hebron this evening. There were no casualties and no damage was caused.

King Husayn To Visit Washington in May

JN2504084293 Amman SHIHAN in Arabic 24-30 Apr 93 p 2

[Text] SHIHAN has learned from informed sources at the Royal Court that His Majesty King Husayn will leave for Washington during the first week of next month to meet U.S. President Clinton. SHIHAN reported in a previous issue that King Husayn received an official invitation from the U.S. President to visit Washington.

While in Washington, King Husayn is expected to undergo his periodic medical checkups as he announced in one of his speeches.

Chief Delegate al-Majali Heads For Washington

JN2404115793 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian delegation to the bilateral peace talks between the Arab parties and Israel, will arrive in Washington this evening to participate in the ninth round of the talks scheduled to begin there next Tuesday. A number of the Jordanian negotiating team left Amman today to join Dr. al-Majali.

King, Queen Return From UK Visit

JN2504182593 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Husayn, accompanied by Her Majesty Queen Nur, returned to the homeland this evening, with God's care, following a visit to the United Kingdom. [passage omitted]

His majesty was received upon arrival by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, a number of members of the Hashemite family, and senior civilian and military officials. His Highness Prince Faysal Bin-al-Husayn and His Excellency [Prime Minister] al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir returned with his majesty.

Prime Minister on 'Private' Visit to Europe

JN2404073193 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 24 Apr 93 p 1

[Text] Amman, PETRA—Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir yesterday left Amman on a two-day private visit to Europe.

A royal decree has been issued naming Dhuqan al-Hindawi, deputy prime minister and education minister, as the acting prime minister during the prime minister's absence outside the country.

Army Chief Receives Visiting French Commander

JN2404162393 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Staff Lieutenant General 'Abd-al-Hafiz Mar'i al- Ka'abinah, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, received in his office today Admiral Lanxade, chief of the General Staff of the French Armed Forces, and the accompanying military delegation. [passage omitted]

The two sides reviewed the regional situation in general, the region's strategic importance and circumstances, and the Jordanian Armed Forces' role and qualitative development in various fields. They also reviewed the Jordanian Armed Forces' humanitarian role in maintaining security and peace in various world areas. Lt. Gen. al-Ka'abinah stressed the importance of cooperation and exchanging experience in various military fields. The meeting was attended by the Royal Ground Forces' chief of staff, the assistant chief of staff for administration, the Royal Air Force's chief of staff, the French ambassador, and the French military attache in Amman.

The guest and his delegation also listened to a military briefing on the Jordanian Armed Forces' development and organization.

Admiral Lanxade, his wife, and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Amman this morning on a visit to the kingdom lasting several days. [passage omitted]

Prince Hasan Confers With Lanxade

JN2504174593 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1600 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, conferred with a visiting French delegation, led by Armed Fores Chief of Staff Admiral Jacques Lanxade on Jordanian-French ties and the Middle East peace process.

His royal highness called for forging a common outlook to basic security requirements in the region, stressing the French role in this regard. The Royal Court meeting was attended by the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Prime Minister Receives Lanxade

JN2604130893 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] Al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, prime minister and minister of defense, received in his office at the Prime Ministry today Admiral Jacques Lanxade, French Armed Forces chief of staff. The meeting was attended by the assistant to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the delegation accompanying Admiral Lanxade.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed bilateral military cooperation and means of developing such cooperation, especially in the fields of the Air Force and overall military training.

UN Sanctions Committee Stand on Iraq Criticized

JN2404120393 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0345 GMT 24 Apr 93

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Meaningless Cruelty," AL-RA'Y says in its editorial today:

The UN Sanctions Committee has rejected Iraq's request to recover its civilian aircraft that took refuge in foreign airports during the Gulf war. The committee also rejected Iraq's request to transport Iraqi pilgrims to the holy lands [Mecca and Medina, Saudi Arabia] on board Iraqi aircraft.

That double rejection expresses the continuity of the inflexible and unfair stands taken by the committee against Iraq. These stands have increased the hardship of the sick and children and have used medicine and food as a torture weapon against them. These stands also reflect meaningless, nervous conduct.

AL-RA'Y adds: It is time for the UN Sanctions Committee to reassess its stands toward Iraq. It is also time for the UN Security Council to take a positive and fair position and dissolve that committee because its existence is meaningless.

The cruelty which Iraq is facing under the pretext of implementing the international sanctions imposed on it reflect blind rancor which should not continue. It also constitutes conduct that has nothing to do with establishing stability in the Gulf. Furthermore, this cruelty will only increase bitterness at a time when all efforts must be devoted to enabling the Gulf to open new chapters and cleanse its atmospheres from the consequences of the Gulf crisis.

Acting Premier, DFLP's Hawatimah Meet 25 Apr

JN2504171793 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Text] Acting Prime Minister Dhuqan al-Hindawi met at the Prime Ministry today with Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP]. Also attending the meetings were Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din, minister of state for cabinet affairs, and the delegation accompanying Hawatimah.

During the meeting, the officials reviewed the overall situation in the Arab world and the latest decision pertaining to the Palestine question in particular. They also stressed the need to unify efforts to overcome the critical stage the region is witnessing, particularly ways of promoting national unity in the occupied Arab territories to confront the Israeli occupation, to emphasize the national will and its effective role in the course of events, and to achieve the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian Arab people on their national soil.

Papers Facing Newsprint Shortage Due to 'Blockade'

JN2204082093 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 22 Apr 93 p 1

[Text] Amman—In view of the undeclared blockade the U.S. naval ships are imposing on the al-'Aqabah port and the delay which ships carrying newsprint for use by Jordanian newspapers encounter as a result of this blockade, our newspapers are now facing a situation where they are forced to reduce the number of pages and limit the number of issues they print in order to ensure that the available stock can be used as efficiently as possible.

U.S. naval forces recently asked ships carrying newsprint for Jordanian papers to return to ports in fraternal countries under the pretext that the newsprint rolls should be restacked to facilitate the U.S. forces' inspection of the ship's cargo.

While we understand that the objective behind these measures is to harm the honorable national and pan-Arab stand Jordanian newspapers are taking, we know that we can rely on our dear reader's understanding, support, and sympathy for the steps we will take to reduce the number of pages and limit the number of printed issues in order to use as efficiently as possible our current, diminishing stock of newsprint.

The ships carrying newsprint are expected to return from the fraternal ports and arrive at the al-'Aqabah Port within the next few days. Our measures will continue until these ships dock at the al-'Aqabah Port.

Communist Party Begins First 'Legal' Congress

JN2204103993 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22-23 Apr p 3

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Sawsan Ghawshah]

[Excerpts] Amman—The Jordanian Communist Party (JCP) began its first, national, legal congress Wednesday, more than forty years after the establishment of the party. [passage omitted]

JCP General Secretary Ya'qub Zayadin presented the political report of the party at the opening session of the three-day congress, held at the Royal Cultural Centre.

He reviewed the history of the JCP stressing the need for democracy and pluralism. [passage omitted]

Over a thousand congress delegates, guests and members of 22 Arab and foreign delegations gathered at the opening session, which took on a festive mood.

Members of different political parties from nine Arab countries, including Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, were represented at the conference, as well as representatives from communists and socialist parties from Korea, Cuba, Cyprus and Greece. [passage omitted]

In the next three days, the JCP will be discussing their political programme, their charter and the structure of the party. [passage omitted]

General Secretary Reelected

JN2504144593 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 25 Apr 93 p 3

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES by Sawsan Ghawshah"]

[Text] Amman—Ya'qub Zayadin Saturday was re-elected as the general secretary of the Jordanian Communist Party (JCP), which also introduced major changes to its political programme at the end of its first national legal congress.

The congress was attended by 193 delegates, representing different regions in Jordan and different segments of society.

According to Dr. Zayadin, women constituted 16 percent, workers 3 percent and youth 50 percent of the delegates.

The congress was the first meeting of its kind and provided an excellent opportunity for members of the JCP to met each other, Dr. Zayadin said.

The three-day congress elected a new central committee and an inspection committee, which reviews the actions and decisions of the central committee.

Dr. Zayadin said aproximately 50 percent of the central committee members are new. In addition, he explained that the congress decided to form an inspection committee, a new phenomenon in the JCP, to ensure the correct practices of the central committee and to strengthen democracy.

Observers commented that the JCP is undergoing a democratization process. All the meetings and elections were open to the press. More important, for the first time in its 40-year history, the JCP, held free and open elections.

Although the former JSP [as published] leadership compiled a suggested list of the new central committee, the door was open for nominations from the floor and 39 were nominated, of which 25 were elected.

When asked why there was a suggested list, Layla Naffa', member of the JCP's current central committee, said it was seen as necessary because most of the delegates do not know each other.

During the meetings, serious discussions and disagreements arose, which Dr. Zayadin perceived as healthy and part of the democratic process.

"Democracy needs practice. There were many heated discussions, but through democracy we were able to come out with a form of unity," he maintained.

One of the main changes issued by the congress was the introduction of minority rights within the party, said Ms. Naffa'.

She explained that those who disagree with the decision of the majority now have the right to discuss their ideas and to publish them in the party literature.

The congress also discussed the political programme and charter of the JCP.

Dr. Zayadin said "the JCP passed through difficult times and now we want to live a normal life... away from secrecy."

He explained that the JCP feels more responsible now, than when they were an underground party, adding that it is no longer enough to oppose the government, the JCP needs to provide alternatives and solutions.

"The party needs to develop practical and scientific programmes that suit the current period," Dr. Zayadin maintained.

The congress produced few changes in the documents presented to it.

In the philosophy of the party, the congress decided to change the phrase "to abide by the Marxist-Leninist theory," to "We use the Marxist-Leninist theory as a guide for our work."

On the Palestinian question, the congress changed the motto from the liberation of Palestine, to the liberation of Palestine through the strengthening of the Jordanian democracy and the solidarity with the intifada.

Dr. Zayadin said the JCP is calling for the strengthening of democracy, the ensurance of human rights and the reduction of illiteracy and backwardness in Jordanian society.

In addition, the JCP stresses the need to hold an economic national conference to adopt a social and economic programme that will end the "economic crisis" of the country and find a solution to the debt problem.

Ms. Naffa' said the congress decided to form committees concerned with human rights and the environment.

The JCP congress also affirmed its support for the workers of Jordan and granting women all their economic, political and social rights.

The congress called for unity among the parties in Jordan to protect the country from external forces, to liberate Palestine and to reduce unemployment and poverty.

When asked about the unity among leftist parties, Dr. Zayadin said it is a premature idea that needs more discussion.

The JCP took the opportunity to invite those who left the party to return and work to guarantee social development and democracy.

The congress also stressed that education and culture are important elements for the development and progress of

society, warning the masses of the dangers inherent in the "imperialist" culture that has affected their morals.

The JCP condemned the regionalism, factionalism and terrorism that is present in the Arab World. It focused on the establishment of a realistic and studied unity among the Arab countries to face such problems.

The congress voiced its support for Cuba and North Korea in their stand against the "imperialist" powers. Furthermore, it called for end to the U.N. imposed embargoes against Iraq and Libya.

A statement was issued, by the congress condemning Russian President Boris Yeltsin for destroying the economic structure of Russia and for supporting the "mafia" and the "Western intelligence agencies."

The delegates for this congress will hold their posts until the next congress, meeting whenever they deem necessary to guarantee proper performance by the leadership.

Deportees Stage 'Sit-In' at Israeli Army Checkpoint

Spokesman on March 26 Apr

JN2604101893 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 0830 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Statement by Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, spokesman for the deportees in southern Lebanon on 26 April—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Statement No. 3: Sit-in on the outskirts of the homeland.

Thanks be to God, and may God's peace and blessings be upon the master of the messengers. Our heroic Palestinian people, we now resume the march to the borders, to the gateway of the homeland. We will sleep on the ground with the sky as our cover, after we have been dealt a treacherous blow by those who call themselves the negotiating Palestinian delegation. We now resume the march after the peddlers have transformed our cause, the cause of the entire people, into a cheap commodity. They praised the repatriation of 35 of their supporters in exchange for our remaining in our predicament as death surrounds us from all sides. We resume the march after the false masks have been dropped and after the resounding cries, which they repeatedly made, that they would not return to the negotiations unless all the deportees return, have disappeared. We will march now because this is the only option we have. They have slammed the door to any hope we had of returning. They have bargained with our tribulation, and disavowed the blood of the martyrs who had fallen in defense of our cause and our repatriation. They gave in to Rabin's will, and left for Washington, deprived of any will and capable of only signing what Rabin wants. For us God suffices, and He is the best disposer of affairs. [Koranic verse]

Our mujahid Palestinian people: While we proceed toward Palestine, we hold the so-called negotiating Palestinian delegation fully responsible for any drop of blood that will be shed and any life that is stifled.

In spite of the siege which deprives you of your daily subsistence means we place our sons in your trust and you will account for them on doomsday. Take care of them and protect them.

If we have to make a will before we embark on our march, it is God's words: And hold fast, all together, by the rope which God stretches out for you, and be not divided among yourselves. [Koranic verse] Unite and achieve cohesion. Do not give the Devil an opportunity to fragment your unity. Your enemy is one and does not differntiate between this or that Palestinian. Remain in the same trench and do not seek division and intra-Palestinian fighting as this only serves the enemies who are lying in wait for you.

Our will to our sons is that they should pursue the march on the right course, the path of martyrdom until God brings about the victory He has promised his followers. Our sons, be good heirs, and arm yourselves with faith. Rest assured that victory comes with patience. Those who fear God and are patient will be rewarded by Him. Glory to God, his prophet, and the faithful. May God's peace and blessing be upon you.

[Signed] Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, for all the brother deportees in southern Lebanon

Second Night of Vigil Planned

NC2704105893 Paris AFP in English 1015 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Marj al-Zuhur, Lebanon, April 27 (AFP)—Some 400 Palestinian deportees decided to stage a second all-night vigil Tuesday in front of an Israeli army checkpoint to protest the resumption of the Middle East peace talks.

"We will continue our stay here face to face with the Israeli army 24 hours more and we will announce our stand tomorrow (Wednesday) morning," spokesman 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rantisi said. [passage omitted]

"We declare that all Palestinian people are against what is going on in Washington," Rantissi said. "Therefore any kind of agreement or any kind of signature does not represent in any sense the consensus of our Palestinian people. We call all the heroic Palestinian people inside the occupied territories to unite themselves," he said.

Gunman Kills Palestinian, Wounds 6 Others in Sidon

NC2504083893 Paris AFP in English 0812 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Text] Sidon, Lebanon, April 25 (AFP) - An unidentified gunman shot dead a Palestinian fundamentalist and wounded six others at the 'Ayn al-Hulwah refugee camp east of Sidon, Palestinian sources said Sunday.

They said a man in a black hood and armed with a machine gun burst into a Muslim religious school of the al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah and opened fire, killing a young student and wounding six others, one of them seriously, before fleeing.

They gave no motive for the attack.

The killer escaped through the narrow streets of 'Ayn al-Hulwah, the largest Palestinian camp in Lebanon with some 120,000 refugees.

Victims Reportedly Hamas Supporters

NC2504091793 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Text] According to our Sidon correspondent, an unknown assailant broke into the house of a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] loyalist in 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp at 2100 yesterday and opened fire on the six people inside. Shaykh Tha'ir Hulayhil was killed and five others were wounded, three of them seriously. The wounded were treated at Hammud Hospital. Hulayhil's body was transferred to Sa'd Sayil Hospital.

Sidon Figures Urge Halt to Inter-Palestinian Fighting

NC2704081593 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] Key political, economic, and social personalities in Sidon met yesterday in the presence of representatives of Palestinian factions. The conferees discussed the inter-Palestinian fighting and the need for it to stop. In a statement following the meeting, the conferees:

1. Condemned the ongoing liquidations, assassinations, and bloodshed, which harm the Palestinian cause and security in Sidon and the camps.

2. Appealed to everybody to show self-restraint and pursue the language of reason and dialogue and urged all Palestinian factions to try to end the bloodshed.

3. Noted that the continued fighting is a conspiracy against both the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples.

4. Called for exposing any party that fails to stop fighting.

5. Warned against suspicious and agent quarters, which do their best to strike at the unity of ranks.

6. Formed a follow-up committee to contact the parties involved to end the bloodshed, which serves the Zionist enemy's schemes of undermining the Islamic, national, and Palestinian resistance, terminating the intifadah, and marketing the suspicious deals of resettlement.

Strike 'Limited' in Sidon Camps, 'General' in North

NC2704112193 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] A limited strike was observed in the Palestinian camps in Sidon today to protest the Palestinian delegation's participation in the ninth round of peace talks. The 10 Palestinian factions called for a general strike today, but Fatah representatives urged people to disregard the strike. Most of the camps' inhabitants responded to Fatah's call. In the north, there was a general strike in all the Palestinian camps.

Palestinian Member of Islamic Group in Lebanon Killed

NC2504172493 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Text] A Palestinian member of the Islamic Group in Lebanon was killed and six others injured last night when a hooded man opened machine-gun fire inside a Koran teaching school in 'Ayn al-Hulwah and then fled, a Palestinian source said.

But security sources said that gunmen at dawn today broke into the home of Sulaylah Mustafa Farhat in Sidon and opened fire, killing Tha'ir Hulayhil, a Palestinian, and injuring 'Ali Tabrawi, Rasim Mahmud Qasim, 'Abd Muhammad Qasim, and Sulaylah Farhat. Gunmen deployed in the area immediately afterward.

Katyushas Fired From Hizballah-Held Villages

NC2504163093 Paris AFP in English 1608 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Text] Tyre, Lebanon, April 25 (AFP) - Guerrillas fired six Katyusha rockets at Israeli-occupied south Lebanon on Sunday, two days before Middle East peace talks were to resume in Washington.

Guerrillas in Kafra and Yatar, villages held by the pro-Iranian Hizballah, fired two salvos of rockets 15 minutes apart at Israel's self-declared security zone, security sources said.

Israeli artillery retaliated by shelling the two villages.

In Jerusalem, a military spokesman said that the rockets caused no damage or casualties, but that they were part of efforts to derail Israeli-Arab peace talks set to resume Tuesday in Washington.

The Shiite Muslim fundamentalist Hizballah and several Palestinian groups are opposed to the peace talks, but no group claimed responsibility for the attacks.

On Friday and Wednesday several Soviet-made Katyusha rockets hit northern Israel and the security zone.

DFLP Claims Clash With 'Israeli Patrol'

NC2604121593 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] The South Lebanese Army [SLA] announced that two Palestinian fighters were killed yesterday inside the security strip in a clash between a Palestinian unit and SLA elements. According to an SLA source, a Palestinian unit armed with rockets and machine guns attacked an SLA position in Tallusah at 1830 yesterday. The SLA personnel returned the fire, killing two of the attackers.

In Beirut, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has issued a statement saying that one of its units ambushed an Israeli patrol on the Tallusah road and killed or wounded its elements.

Two 'Terrorists' Killed by SLA in South

TA2604045693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] Near Tallusah, in the central section of south Lebanon, two terrorists were killed in a clash with SLA [South Lebanese Army] soldiers. The two terrorists were apparently trying to cross into the security zone when they encountered the SLA force. They were carrying a machine gun, rifles, and ammunition.

Southern Areas Come Under Israeli Mortar Fire

NC2404085593 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Text] The vicinity of the derelict Lebanese Army Barracks in al-Nabatiyah al-Fawqa and Hayy al-Maslakh

outskirts came under Israeli mortar fire from the Israeli positions in al-Zaffatah this morning. The shelling coincided with raking operations with medium- and large-caliber machine guns.

Organization Warns Negotiators Against Accord With Israel

NC2504054093 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Text] A person claiming to speak on behalf of the 17 May Martyrs Organization [Munazzamat Shuhada' Saba'ta 'Ashar Ayar] has telephoned our radio, saying that his organization warns the Lebanese negotiators against signing any agreement similar to the 17 May agreement [accord signed in 1983 providing for Israel's withdrawal and the establishment of the security zone in South Lebanon.] Anyone signing such an agreement will not escape our punishment, he said.

Minister Denies Camps Train Sudanese Opposition

NC2504170393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1625 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Text] Beirut, 25 Apr (MENA)—Lebanese Interior Minister Bisharah Mirhij has praised Egypt's positive stand on the security, stability, and reconstruction process in Lebanon.

In an exclusive statement to a MENA correspondent in Beirut, Mirhij said that the Lebanese Government regrets the accusation leveled by Chairman 'Umar al-Bashir, the Sudanese head of state, against Egypt and Lebanon about the "training of Sudanese opposition elements on Lebanese territory."

He added: At a time when Egypt is eager to strengthen the security and stability process in Lebanon without any negative foreign interference, we call on the Sudanese president to review his statements and confirm to him that all the facts prove that there are no camps for training the Sudanese opposition in Lebanon. We regret this accusation against Egypt and Lebanon. At the same time, we stress the importance of strengthening the positive climate and fraternal ties between Lebanon and the various Arab parties.

Colombian Mafia Said Using Nation To Distribute Drugs

NC2504115893 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1130 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Text] Under the supervision of Interior Minister Bisharah Mirhij, the container inside which the judicial police discovered 150 kg of cocaine smuggled from Colombia, was opened at Beirut seaport this morning.

According to exclusive information available to our radio, the Colombian Mafia, whose activities in Colombia have been restricted, is trying to transfer its money, estimated at $1.5 billion, to Lebanon. It chose Lebanon because after the successful war against growing hashish, the production of cocaine dropped, resulting in more demand than supply. Lebanese and Colombian groups, therefore, agreed to smuggle cocaine to Lebanon and to reprocess it and distribute it in Eastern Europe, especially in the former Soviet Union. From there, the drugs would be sent to Western Europe through various borders, avoiding Western ports, which are equipped with detectors.

The container found in the Beirut port yesterday was lost after leaving Colombia. U.S. security agencies traced it in Rotterdam, Netherlands. It was then shipped to the port of Damietta in Egypt. Police from both countries thoroughly inspected the container and cut a 6-cm deep hole in the plating; however, nothing was found. The ship carrying the container arrived in Beirut port as the judicial police received information about the smuggled material. Police cut a 12-cm hole in the metal plates and discovered the cocaine.

Judicial Police Commander Brigadier General 'Isam Abu-Zikki received congratulations on this accomplishment from several foreign security services. The successful operation echoed positively, especially given the fact that Lebanese security agencies lack advanced technology in this field.

Interior Minister Leaves for Damascus for Talks

NC2604094993 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0900 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] Interior Minister Bisharah Mirhij left for Damascus this morning at the head of a delegation that included Major General Muhammad Qubrusli, director general of the Internal Security Forces, and Raymond Rufayil, director general of Public Security, for talks with Syrian officials on bilateral security cooperation.

Qatari Information Minister Arrives on Visit

NC2704113693 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Qatari Information Minister Hamad 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Kuwari arrived in Beirut this afternoon at the official invitation of Information Minister Michel Samahah. [passage omitted]

Chinese Minister, Economic Delegation Arrive for Talks

NC2604180493 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] A Chinese economic delegation led by the PRC minister of trade and external economic cooperation arrived in Beirut this afternoon for a visit of several days. The delegation will meet senior Lebanese officials, industry and financial figures, and businessmen to enhance bilateral cooperation and economic, trade, and technical ties.

Mashariqah, Delegation Return From DPRK Visit

JN2304174093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Dr. Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, vice president and vice chairman of the National Progressive Front, and the delegation accompanying him returned to Damascus this evening following an official visit to the DPRK lasting several days. [passage omitted]

Interior Minister, Lebanese Counterpart Discuss Security

JN2704073793 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] Damascus—Official talks began this evening between a Syrian Arab delegation led by Interior Minister Dr. Muhammad Harbah and a Lebanese delegation led by Interior Minister Bisharah Mirhij. Members of the two delegations were present at the meeting.

During this meeting, the two sides reviewed the minutes of the previous meetings and what has been implemented of them. The two sides also discussed a number of topics of interest to both fraternal countries in the field of security cooperation and combating crime and drug trafficking. This is within the framework of the Security and Defense Agreement signed between the two countries. Discussions also focused on the completion and implementation of the articles listed on the minutes signed between the two ministries. They stressed the need to implement the agreement in all fields in the interest of our Arab people in both countries.

Afterward, the subcommittees, which are made up of competent authorities in both ministries, began their meetings to study and discuss topics on the agenda in preparation for their implementation. Such topics deal with security cooperation and combating all forms of crime and facilitating the affairs of brother citizens between the two countries.

Commentary Says Peace Opportunity 'Most Important'

JN2304173493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1135 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The Arab foreign ministers concerned with the Middle East peace process have issued their final statement, accepting participation in the ninth round of peace talks on 27 April. This statement prompts the cosponsors of the peace process, particularly the United States, to shoulder their responsibility of halting the escalating Israeli attacks against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples and taking measures to remove the obstacles placed by the Tel Aviv rulers, which flagrantly disregard the resolutions of international legitimacy. As soon as this statement was issued, the Tel Aviv rulers embarked on more criminal actions in the Gaza Strip and southern Lebanon.

In the past two days, extremely violent confrontations erupted in the Gaza Strip where tens of Gazans were killed or wounded by treacherous Israeli bullets, while southern Lebanon was showered with a hail of shells. It seems that the Tel Aviv rulers want to convey a message to the world that they conflict with peace.

The Arab parties have agreed to participate in the ninth round, thus responding favorably to urgent calls from the U.S. Administration which offered a host of pledges and guarantees, led by entrenching both the land-for-peace equation and UN Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 as the terms of reference for a comprehensive peace settlement, as well as recognizing the Palestinian people's legitimate national and political rights, and committing itself to the role of a full and effective partner. In return, Israel has only made ambigious promises. This is not strange for Israel; the past eight rounds confirmed that Israel is interested in the peace process only to mislead world public opinion and make the world states and peoples believe that it is serious about peacemaking. However, Israel's deception and lies were quickly exposed this time. This is so because the Arab parties, by postponing the ninth round until 27 April, have clarified that the peace process has reached a serious crossroads due to Israel's intransigence. This time, there might be a real breakthrough and a translation of the Security Council resolutions into tangible facts, or the peace process, along with the international credibility, might be undermined. The Arabs will not allow Israel to take advantage of both their eagerness to achieve peace and their favorable response to the international peace efforts. There is no other alternative for the United States but to use its great influence to force Israel to honor both the UN resolutions and the bases of international law.

The Arabs will attend the ninth round of peace talks equipped with a unified position, with a determination to coordinate all their moves, and with adherence to an honorable, comprehensive, and just peace on all fronts of the conflict. There will be no separate deals nor departures from the bases of a fair solution. The Arabs will not enable Israel to penetrate the unified Arab position. Instead, the Arabs will raise substantial issues, led by Israel's withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, respecting the Palestinian people's rights, repatriating all deportees, and recognizing the right of the refugees and displaced persons to return home.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has announced that peace is impossible if Israel does not relinquish the occupied territories. For their part, the Arabs have reaffirmed that there will be no sellout of an inch of territory or a single national or pan-Arab right. The Security Council resolutions have secured the Arabs' right to regain all their occupied territories, including Jerusalem and the Golan, and nullified the

annexation and Judaization measures that the Tel Aviv rulers have taken since 1967.

The Arabs are aware that Israel does not want peace, and that it trades in peace in order to extort U.S. funds and arms and draw the West's sympathy. By taking part in the ninth round of talks, the Arabs will place the United States before its responsibilities and pledges. The United States has committed itself to achieving a just and comprehensive peace settlement on all fronts, based on the Security Council resolutions and the land-for-peace principle. The United States also pledged to be opposed to the deportation policy and to respect human rigts in the occupied Arab territories.

Should Israel evade the requirements of the peace process, as it did in past rounds, and should it attempt to undermine this process, the United States will have no option but to decisively play the full partner's role, as it has pledged, and confront Israeli sabotage. Otherwise, the United States will risk its credibility in the region and the world.

Therfore, the United States is facing a major challenge. A successful handling of this challenge requires that both the Security Council and the principles of internatinal law should be upheld. The Arabs have shouldered their responsibilities toward the Middle East peace. The ball is now in the U.S. and Israeli courts. Israel has wasted numerous opportunities to achieve peace in the region, but the current opportunity is the most important one. This peace opportunity may not be available again for several years to come.

TISHRIN Calls For 'Effective, Pressuring' U.S. Role

JN2604065493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 26 Apr 93

[From the press review]

[Text] Commenting on the peace process, TISHRIN says: U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has renewed the U.S. Administration's commitment to the bases of the peace process, including exchanging land for peace, adopting Resolutions 242 and 338 as a frame of reference and a basis for a comprehensive, lasting settlement, as well as giving the Palestinian people their legitimate political rights. This is in addition to playing the role of an honest, full partner in the peace talks.

The truth is that the Arabs have never asked the U.S. administration to do anything more than implement Security Council resolutions on all fronts of the conflict and play a balanced, objective role that stems from concern for peace, international law, and UN charters.

After noting that millions of Arabs were forced to leave their land in the wake of the Israeli occupation and attacks, TISHRIN asserts that since 1967, the Arabs have been asking the influential member states of the Security Council to achieve justice and implement Security Council resolutions. This has been to no avail, since the West has turned a deaf ear, and closed its eyes, to the aggravating tragedies in the Middle East. The West, however, was finally delivered from its illusions and shocked into a new awareness by the Gulf war, to find out that Israel is a burden to it and that alliance with it harms its basic interests in the region.

Today, as the ninth round of the Washington talks is about to be held, all signs indicate that it might be the last round if Israel does not engage itself wholeheartedly in the peace process and comply with UN resolutions. The Arabs want Washington to translate its pledges and commitments into deeds and facts.

The paper asserts that the ninth round will be decisive, and that its success hinges on an effective, pressuring U.S. role. The Arabs are not the only party awaiting this U.S. role. The entire world is awaiting this role after it has become fed up with Israel's serious human rights violations, its noncompliance with international legitimacy, its violations of international agreements and charters, and its propagation of the policy of aggression and the law of the jungle.

TISHRIN concludes: Peace in the Middle East is at a crossroads. Its success depends on the materialization of U.S. pledges and international resolutions on the ground, so that the Arabs would restore their occupied territories and the Palestinian people would exercise freely their legitimate national and political rights.

Need for U.S. Role as 'Full Partner' Stressed

JN2604163893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has forestalled the ninth round of talks to announce conditions which he knows in advance are impossible to achieve because they contradict the principles of the peace process and Madrid Conference. Rabin has asked the Arabs to make concessions and has referred, once again, to what he calls—the threats of peace.

Of course, the concessions which the Israeli prime minister are asking the Arabs to give concern Arab land and rights which were usurped by force in the Golan Heights, southern Lebanon, and the other occupied Arab territories. That land and these rights must be returned to their rightful owners. The international community has acknowledged this fact in written resolutions approved by the highest world body. We refer in particular to Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425; the resolutions on which the peace process and the Madrid Conference were based.

When they went to the Madrid Conference and participated in the previous eight rounds of talks, the Arabs

relied on these resolutions in particular and the assurances given by the two cosponsors, to the effect that peace will be based on these resolutions, as well as the principle of land for peace.

However, after some one and a half years of futile talks, Rabin is now asking the Arabs to make concessions. This means he wants to negotiate a peace that would keep parts of Arab territory under occupation and some of the Arab rights in the hands of Israel. This cannot be approved by any international legitimacy or law.

What is even stranger is the fact that the Israeli prime minister is again using the term—threats of peace. We say once more because Rabin used the same term shortly after assuming his post to justify Israel's continued occupation of certain parts of Arab territory. How can this term be interpreted? How can peace pose any threats, and against whom? Peace means only peace; it does not have many interpretations, and national soil means national soil, as asserted by President Hafiz al-Asad. Peace, as we and the world understand it, means an end to wars and aggression and violations against territory and rights. Peace will, after all, be to the benefit of all and cannot be a threat to any one.

However, Rabin's interpretation and concept of peace is apparently different from that of the world. Israel wants the peace that will enable it to maintain its occupation of Arab territory, continue its aggressions, and severe any part of Arab territory under the pretext of protecting its own security.

Rabin's feeble excuses, however, cannot convince any one. We do not even think that Rabin himself is convinced about them. When he makes such statements, he aims at placing new obstacles on the path of the peace process. All previous Israeli obstacles have failed to drive the Arabs to abandon peace and their participation in the peace process. When it resorted to the policy of deportation and suppression in the occupied territories, Israel was wagering on the Arabs' abandonment of the peace process to hold them responsible before the world community and the peace conference cosponsors for hampering the peace process. He is now placing new obstacles on the path of peace to achieve the same old goal; to make the Arabs withdraw from the peace process and appear before the world as the ones who reject peace, while Israel is the party that seeks to achieve it.

With the end of the eighth round, Rabin created the deportee crisis. Now he sets preconditions, imposes a closure on two million Palestinians, and exposes southern Lebanon to the fire of his aggression on a daily basis. All this would make it really hard, if not impossible, for the ninth round to succeed.

We do not believe that the peace process cosponsors, particularly the United States, which pledged to play the role of a full partner in these talks, is unaware of the true objectives behind Israel's fabrication of these obstacles. Here, we must say that the full partner must play his complete and effective role in the peace talks. The role of the full partner means working on removing the obstacles facing the peace process and pressuring the party that places these obstacles. It also means not taking sides in favor of this or that party, but, rather, supporting right and justice. Only then, can one say that a just and comprehensive peace is within reach.

U.S. Role in Talks, 'Fresh Opportunity' Noted

JN2704080993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Press review]

[Text] Noting that the ninth round of the peace talks are set to begin in Washington today, AL-BA'TH calls it a fresh opportunity to test Israeli intentions. Coming as they do after eight sterile rounds that have led nowhere in the way of bringing us any closer to a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, the talks resume against a backdrop of both optimistic and pessimistic expectations, the paper adds.

The United States paved the way for this round by assertions that it will assume the role of full partner that will pursue tangible results so as to break the logjam in the peace process. The Arab interlocutors have made their position known when they met in Damascus and issued a statement stating their commitment to the efforts aimed at bringing peace to the region based on UN resolutions and retrieval of Arab rights. Israel, AL-BA'TH asserts, joined the new round without obligating itself to anything intimating a willingness to get engaged in the peace process on the lines on which it was launched at the Madrid conference, thus casting a shadow of doubt and pessimism over the Washington talks. Noting that Israel has erected numerous roadblocks in the path of the peace process, the paper continues: The peace process's terms of reference are clear enough; they are UN resolutions. Any attempt on the part of the Israeli negotiators to sidestep these terms can only mean that the Rabin government is evading the peace process. Here, the role of the United States as full partner cannot be overstated; and if this U.S. role is to be truly credible it will have to pass the test of the international community.

Taking up the same theme, TISHRIN's editorial observes that the road to the ninth round has been far from smooth and that getting to the stage of the ninth round followed a fierce political battle pitting right, justice, and peace on the one hand against Zionist injustice and aggression on the other. Israel has sought to alter the balance of power at the negotiating table and to make political gains to help its case and consequently give it the freedom to wriggle out of any obligations. Toward that end, the Israeli Government moved in several directions with the aim of securing three winning cards: A weak and divided Arab position; total American slant toward Israel; and a sympathetic world public opinion. Under these circumstances, Israel calculated that there will be no proper negotiations, but sessions at

which the Israeli negotiators would be in a position to dictate to the Arabs. Damascus got wise to this insidious Israeli plan, and went all-out to stand up to and abort it, the thrust of this move being to deepen coordination among the Arab interlocutors in the peace process and to work out a joint blueprint on which to build the Arab position. The strenuous efforts exerted at the cordon states meeting in Damascus succeeded in fulfilling these two goals, and the result is that the Arabs have emerged from this rigorous test more vigorous and united and better able to counter Israeli maneuvers. The Arabs have often enough shown themselves to be peace seekers; it was they who opened the door for the peace process and acted in harmony with international legitimacy, and they never placed any barriers in the path of the negotiations. The Arabs acted the way they did with an eye to promoting the objective of the restoration of their occupied territory and usurped rights. Thus no one can possibly charge that the Arabs do not want peace. However, an important point must be made: The Arabs' concern for peace is not to be construed as a disposition to cede a single inch of their territory or rights—a fact brought home by the past eight rounds. Despite all the Israeli maneuvers and the pressures applied on the Arabs, they have not conceded their rights and will never do. The Arabs have contributed their fair share to the drive to build a just peace; it is now up to the international community and the United States to make Israel comply with the will of the international community and UN Security Council resolutions. Only then will just and general peace be established, TISHRIN concludes.

AL-THAWRAH urges the international community to do something about the Israeli obduracy and the United States to translate its pledges into actions on the ground by applying pressure on Israel and keeping it from squandering yet another opportunity to make peace—an opportunity that, should Israel's obstructionism be given free reins, may be lost forever. Without pressure being applied on Israel and compelling it to go along with the principle of total withdrawal from the occupied Arab territory and to recognize the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people, peace in the region will remain an impossibility, concludes AL- THAWRAH.

India

CIS Delegation Holds Talks on Weapon Spares, Plant

BK2304061293 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1615 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] The visiting delegation of the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS] held wide-ranging talks on the streamlining [as heard] of weapon spares and setting up of a MiG- 29 assembly plant in the country. The commander in chief of the CIS Air Force, Colonel General P.S. Deynekin, who arrived in the capital today for week-long talks was given an impressive guard of honor at the air headquarters. He later met the chief of the air staff, Air Chief Marshal N.C. Suri, and discussed operational matters. The two sides also discussed the Russian offer of joint development of its SU-54 advanced jet trainer.

Pakistani National Suspect in Landmine Blasts

BK2304143793 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 12 Apr 93 p 3

[Text] Srinagar—Security forces are hunting for a Pakistani ballistic expert, suspected to be the kingpin behind the recent spate of landmine attacks.

Official sources said the Pakistani, probably a regular Army personnel, has been deputed to Kashmir by the ISI (Inter Services Intelligence) and is known by the code name of Bilal in militant circles—Bilal is presently working with leading pro-Pakistan ouffit Hizbul Mojahedin and has been instrumental in upgrading the striking capability of the militants. At least seven securitymen, including an assistant commandant of the BSF [Border Security Force], have been killed and seven injured in-two major landmine blasts in Srinagar ove the past week.

Bilal has been reportedly laying mines for the Hizbul Mojahedin and has been training their cadres for use in explosives, official sources said. Hizbul Mojahedin ranks have also been swelled by highly expert rocket launchers supplied by the Afghan Mojahedin. That the Mojahedin have manifested in the Valley is evident from the fact that all militants leaders of the Hizbul have them as their personal bodyguards, for Kashmiris are not trusted for sensitive positions.

Talks Held With Kashmiri Policemen

BK2604163493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] The director general of the Jammu and Kashmir Police, Mr. B.S. Bedi, and senior officers of the state government today had discussions with the agitating policemen in Srinagar. The state government is reported to have agreed to the transfer of the senior superintendent of police of Srinagar, Mr. K. Rejendran. It has nominated inspector general of police of Srinagar, Mr. A.K. Suri, and Brigadier Kothari for the joint inquiry into the circumstances leading to the death of an armed police constable last Wednesday [21 April].

Five Militants Killed in Punjab

BK2404035493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Text] In Punjab, five militants, including two hard-core and three security personnel, have been killed in separate encounters since yesterday evening. According to an official spokesman, two hardcore militants—Jagrat Singh and Pargat Singh Fauji—along with their accomplices, were killed in Bhatinda District, while one police inspector and two homeguard jawans [soldiers] were killed in another encounter in the same district.

Meanwhile, the Bhatinda deputy commissioner, Mr. R.C. Nayar, who was injured in a road bomb blast last evening near village Poola, has been discharged from the hospital. His driver and gunman are also out of danger. Elsewhere in the state, seven militants were held in various areas.

Four Congress-I Dissidents Removed From Membership

BK2504031693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Text] The Congress-I Disciplinary Action Committee [DAC] has removed four dissidents from active membership of the party for five years. They are Mr. K.N. Singh, Mr. M.L. Fotedar, Mr. K. Natwar Singh, and Mrs. Shiela Dikshit. They were served show-cause notices shortly after the Surajkund AICC-I [All India Congress-I Committee] session. The chairman of the DAC, Mr. Vijaya Bhaskara Reddy, has said that the action has been taken against them on charges of antiparty activities. Speaking after a meeting of the committee in New Delhi yesterday, he said that Dr. Chinta Mohan, who was also served a show-cause notice, has sought some more time to reply and his request has been agreed to.

Parliamentary Committee Endorses Defense Budget

BK2704031693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Text] The Standing Committee of Parliament on Defense has endorsed a budget estimate of defense services for this year. The committee headed by Mr. Buta Singh presented its report to both the houses yesterday. The committee said the next defense expenditure, estimated at 19,180 million rupees, is based on reasonable yardsticks.

Enhanced Role for Special Forces Urged

BK2304012893 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 12 Apr 93 p 8

[Text] Evolution is a fact of life. What ever be the theological position, life forms certainly evolve. And evolution is also a harsh truth, inevitable and unemotional. The best example is obviously that of dinosaurs, the largest creatures [that] have roamed the earth. Their size, strength and general advantages were ultimately nothing in the face of change, and they perished.

A similar inevitability applies to the military as well. And the laws of evolution dictate that in future, the armed forces will look, and be applied rather differently from what they hitherto have been. Change has begun, and will gather momentum. There will be casualties, and some types of soldiering will become redundant, because that, after all, is what evolution demands. In this transformation, there do, nevertheless, remain aspects of the military whose function will widen. Principal amongst this type is the helicopter, for it possesses one vital characteristic—flexibility of roles. Adapted for increasingly large number of functions the helicopter is assured of its future. And sharing a similar fate are the Special Forces [SF], for they have three advantages in their favour: application across the entire combat spectrum, low, mid, and high-intensity conflicts, rapidity in response and potentially a force-multiplier effect.

In the entire gamut of reorganisation and restructuring, an enhanced role for the Special Forces is inherent as they epitomise cost-effective defence; they are relatively low-cost, yield results disproportionate to numbers deployed, and are capable of performing tactical as well as strategic operations. At the root of their existence is the conduct of irregular actions, and this potential is born of an attitude of mind, which, after all, is the most important weapon. It takes a peculiar bent, some call it a kink, others a form of madness, and those who make up this category of soldiering consider it to be a mere inclination. Special Forces are related to the primeval man through the basic instincts of hunting and surviving. Therefore, unlike conventional soldiering, central to Special Forces is not hardware but manpower; and its quality is always more important than the quantity. It is not surprising that a system which revolves around weapons acquisitions, large formations, and building parochial assets would consider the Special Forces as an enigma. Glorified, but not understood.

In India, that is the only explanation for the 'VIP' displays habitually put on, or debates over colour of the beret. India's attitude toward the Special Forces is manifest by a manpower policy that runs counter to their very basics. In a field wholly dependent on the class of its manpower, the Army's Special Forces units do not have the enough access to that quality, in terms of selection [sentence as published]. The cumbersome process as well as the hurdles placed make the effort most difficult. In the case of the Air Force, those charged with special operation roles do not get deployed for long enough tenure. When insertion into operations, and extraction, is a high-risk and precise task, it cannot be left to greenhorns. A certain permanency must be instituted in the posting, occasional operations in aid to civil authority notwithstanding. The same deduction applies to the proposal pertaining to a detachment system for the Army's Special Forces. The blending of inclination with training and special skills is a long-process, and short-termers do not make competent Special Forces men for precisely that reason.

For a more efficient long-term development of India's special operations capabilities, reorganisation of the Special Forces must be taken toward its logical end. Drawing from the experienced in tne Army, Commander, Special Forces Headquarters, should be a two-star general, thereby giving him enough leverage with the higher-ups. He must, above all, be conceptually clear about special operations, and Sri Lanka proved that without Special Forces experience, some can still effectively lead the Special Forces. The Commander must have an advisory role with the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, and work in conjunction with the Defence Planning Staff. This will get a tri- service angle into the planning and implementation of special operations, which after all, must be the objective of the SF HQs.

With a secretariat drawn from amongst the three Services, the Commander must be the authority that controls all special military operations and missions. His centrally located secretariat will be charged with developing and deploying the Special Forces, whether Army, Navy, and/or in conjunction with the Air Force. Training programmes, procurement plans, effective gathering and sharing of intelligence, communications, and the development of a technical cell are some of the tasks that the secretariat could be assigned. Training plans, for operations in all environments, developed at the HQs can be shared with the various units. The skills learnt need to be horizontally transferred between the units because every Special Forces unit must have a basic understanding of the relationship linking terrain and skills. As a Major-General, it will help, albeit relative, in getting essential procurement passed. Special props are needed for special operations, and while their purchase is not always easily understood by accountants it is useful to have a general around.

An intelligence section at the headquarters is fundamental to the planning of special operations. Whilst gathering information from military and civil agencies, the intelligence cell will be responsible for processing and disseminating it to the units. This is dependent on a smooth communication network. A technical cell is critical for a Special Forces HQ. There is the essential maintenance need of equipment, whether of weapons or vehicles. Some equipment needs improvisation, and for that the technical cell must have access to scientists and engineers of the DRDO [Defense Research Development Organization]. Working in conjunction with those from EME [expansion unknown], engineers, and even the Ordnance, this cell could be most beneficial for

research and development of special props. For example, the very effective Special Operations Vehicle developed by Land Rover is the result of such research, and improvisation.

The need for developing an efficacious and all-encompassing Special Forces Headquarters is borne out by the fact that their results are always better when their development, planning and implementation is done from within. In future, special operations are likely to be complex, involving the use of tri-service assets. The SF HQs must, therefore, reflect this cooperation, for none can go it alone. In mid and high-intensity conflicts, even the most capable Special Forces units need help from regular units. Ultimately, the 53rd card cannot be as such without the existence of the other 52, likewise without the 53rd, the 52 will have the ultimate wild card, the 53rd card. It is for the armed forces to realise that this joker is quite out of the ordinary, its existence and further development based on the right instincts, the right mind, and the right organisation.

Nuclear Power Generation Reaches 'New High'

BK2304043893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Nuclear power generation touched a new high of 6,684 million units during the last financial year. According to a release of the Nuclear Power Corporation in Bombay, this is 1,159 million units more than the previous year.

Gold Ore, Other Minerals in Madhya Pradesh

BK2304044693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] The Geological Survey of India, GSI, has located over nine crore tonnes of silica dolomite in Lohani area, Chhatarpur, and Sagar District in Madhya Pradesh. Four lakh tonnes of gold ore in Raigarh District, over 8 lakh tonnes of zinc ore in Bitul area, and over 120 crore tonnes of (gloconite) sandstone in Satna District have also been located by the GSI.

Finance Minister Lists Economic Achievements

BK2604163293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] The finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, today indicated that the government may come out with some measures to reduce the fertilizer price burden on the farmers. He said the prime minister himself is engaged in the exercise. Replying to a marathon debate on the general budget for 1993-94 in the Lok Sabha, Dr. Manmohan Singh also said he will announce some incentives to promote savings when the finance bill is taken up in the house. He declared that the government will not do anything which will affect the interests of the farmers. He pointed out amid cheers from the treasury benches that the country has made a record harvest of 180 million [metric] tons of food grains last year and the foreign exchange reserves also touched a new high of $7 billion.

Surveying the achievements on the economic scene of the country during the past 20 months, the finance minister rejected the opposition charge that the country's sovereignty has been surrendered. He said what India needs is a forward-looking export policy which will make the country a major trading power. Defending the liberalization policy, Dr. Manmohan Singh said the rate of inflation has fallen to 6.4 percent because of the substantial cut in fiscal deficit which also came down to 4.7 percent. He said in the second year of the new economic policy, the nation achieved a 4 percent growth rate and this year it is expected to touch 5 percent or more. He asserted that the government will not allow the country to become a dumping ground for foreign goods. He said India is on the move and appealed to the opposition to support the budget proposals and create a new spirit of reconciliation.

Policies Aimed at Protecting Domestic Industries

BK2404094393 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Text] The finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, says that there can be no instantaneous results from the new liberalized economic policies. Speaking at a national seminar on Economic Reforms, Achievements and Challenges organized by the Forum of Financial Writers in New Delhi today, he said the results can be felt only after sometime. Dr. Singh, however, said that the government has already succeeded in its first task of establishing economic stability and controlling inflation. He said the inflation rate would be further brought down to levels below five percent in the near future. The finance minister, while professing a pragmatic approach towards providing subsidies, agreed that the vulnerable sections of our society will, however, continue to need these subsidies. The finance minister, in his speech, emphasized on paying more attention to the development of agriculture. He said the recent policies of the government have allowed some maneuverability to obtain more funds to be invested in agriculture and social sectors. He said the [word indistinct] of the new economic policy, in fact, is a strategy towards attaining self- reliance. He assured that under the new policy domestic industry will continue to be protected and will have no threat from the foreign multinationals.

Commentary Views Foreign Investments Approval

BK2404140793 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1010 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Commentary by S.K.T. Niranjan]

[Text] Recent changes in the policy towards foreign investment have become an integral part of the strategy of modernizing the economy and establishing global linkage which will be of crucial importance in the

emerging world economy. The budget for the year 1993-94 incorporates new response-making proposals to boost foreign investment in India. These proposals include full convertibility of rupee and massive cuts in import duties.

Full convertibility has made the previous dual exchange rate system redundant, which did not give enough incentives to the exporters, non-resident Indians, and other foreign investors. The official exchange rate which was less than the market exchange rate hurt exporters and other foreign exchange earners who had to surrender 40 percent of their earnings at the official rate, getting the benefit of the higher rate on only 60 percent. Full convertibility has made all the foreign exchange operations lucrative and simpler. With this reform, the government has removed one of the major bottlenecks.

Big foreign investors tend to have plants in foreign countries which provide crucial inputs to the manufacture of their products. The previous regime of high custom duties on imports had made their operations less profitable which acted as a hurdle in increasing their investment participation in India. A further cut in the import and customs duties on the relevant products will now provide a fillip to their investment activities in India. These measures will also help in the development of domestic industries besides fostering a healthy competition. The areas which are going to be benefitted by these cuts are capital goods, chemicals, electronics, metals, health care, computers, and agricultural machinery.

All these reforms must be seen in the light of the previous sustained efforts of the government during the past two years. These reforms are abolition of industrial licensing for all but 18 industries; virtual removal of import licensing on all raw material components, intermediate and capital goods; the hike in the foreign equity holding limit up to 51 percent in most of the industries, for example 100 percent export-oriented units; firms producing life- saving equipment and drugs and other areas of crucial importance to the economy; expeditious clearing of foreign investment proposals by Foreign Investment Promotion Board; facilities for portfolio investment by foreign investment institutions.

These reforms along with the reforms in the current budget have made India quite attractive for foreign investors comparable to the best of Asia's new economic powers. Early results are encouraging, though it is too early to judge the actual inflow of foreign investment on this count.

The government has cleared foreign investments amounting to rupees 42.9 billion during the post-industrial policy period of August 1991 to the end of 1992. It is seven times more than the foreign investments okayed in the corresponding period of August 1990 to December 1991. As many as 1,520 foreign collaborations were approved in 1992. These include 692 approvals involving foreign equity of rupees 39.9 billion. This is more that 32 times the foreign investment approval of rupees 5.3 billion in the previous year.

The Reserve Bank, during the period, approved investments of rupees 9.2 billion. More than 80 percent of the foreign direct investment are in the priority sector. Investments from the U.S. increased 35 times from rupees 344 5 million in 1990 to rupees 12,315 million in 1992. There was also increase from Switzerland - rupees 135 million to 6,897.6 million; Japan - rupees 50 million to rupees 6,102.3 million; Sweden - rupees 3.3 million to rupees 484.1 million; Singapore - rupees 602.1 million; Australia - rupees 6.3 million to 776.2 million. The U.S. has become the largest investor in 1992 taking 31 percent of the total, followed by Switzerland and Japan.

Major Exporter of Oil Seed, Edible Oil

BK2504085193 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Text] India emerged as a major exporter of oil seeds and edible oil over the past two years. The net export earnings during these years were about 1,600 crore rupees. The production of oil seeds last year was estimated to be a record 20.5 million [metric] tons. As a result, the country has exportable surplus of edible oil of about 3 lakh tons.

Inflation Rate Falls to 6.38 Percent

BK2504094293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Text] The rate of inflation fell for the sixth consecutive week and registered 6.38 percent, the lowest in 44 months during the week ending 10 April. However, the wholesale price index for all commodities rose by 0.2 percent to 233.6. The index for food articles declined by 0.2 percent while that of food products increased by 0.5 percent.

Groups Plan Protests Over Economy, Communalism

BK2704054593 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 16 Apr 93 p 5

[Text] New Delhi—Hitting hard at the economic policies initiated by the Government and its "failure" to stop the communal monster from growing, a host of mass organisations held a convention here on Thursday to chart out their role on a national scale.

Representatives of about 30 organisations—consisting of central trade unions, student unions and women and youth organisatians—attended the meet. Through two resolutions, they decided to stage a "jail bharo" [fill the jails] agitation on August 19 and follow this up with a "massive Bharat bandh [nationwide strike] and industrial strike" on September 9.

The four-page draft on which discussions were held took into account several issues allegedly threatening the secular and economic fibre of the country. The draft said:

—Prices have risen very high, worsening the situation of the poor masses. The rupee devaluation has added to the national debt burden and the country is becoming increasingly dependent on foreign loans.

—he conditionalities imposed by the World Bank and IMF have undermined our economic sovereignty and made our economy stagnant while multinationals are minting money by capturing the Indian market step by step.

—The Government also put on sale the nation's mineral wealth and opened up the oil sector for multinational domination. The public sector is being systematically dismantled through disinvestment, privatisation and proposals for closure of sick units.

—The scandalous share market deals have resulted in crores of money belonging to banks and other financial institutions being swindled, with RBI [Reserve Bank of India] and the Finance Ministry playing a shocking role. Corruption, bribery and nepotism never reached such a serious level.

—The Government has failed to introduce genuine land reforms, land is still concentrated in the hands of big landlords. Denial of remunerative prices for agricultural produce has crippled small and marginal farmers. Lack of development of agro-based and rural industries has resulted in exodus of the rural people to the urban areas.

—Equality of women has remained on paper and callous discrimination against them continues unabated. Students and youth are faced with a bleak future due to dwindling job opportunities.

—The new elitist education policy will only train a handful of technical personnel. The promotion of expenditure on education is declining every year while it is becoming highly commerciaiised, denying elementary education to the poor.

—The decadent western culture with its glorification of sex, violence, crime and religious fundamentalism is causing a serious impact on the young generation.

—While all secular and patriotic forces are battling the divisive forces represented by RSS [Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh]- VHP [World Hindu Council]-BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] and Shiv Sena, the latter advocate the fascist concept of Hindu rashtra and are trying to capture political power to achieve their objective.

—The BJP even destroyed history in the school books during their rule in four states, to corrupt the mind of children with their concept of Hindu nation.

—The Centre, instead of fighting these forces, is adopting a policy of appeasement. It equates the communal forces with democratic and secular forces, as could be seen in the case of banning rallies in Delhi.

Enumerating all these points, the convention warned the people that unless all secular, democratic and patriotic forces fight the twin dangers together, the country cannot be saved from disaster.

Chhaya Mukerjee, general secretary of the Calcutta-based All India Mahila Sanskritik Sangathan, criticised the media—"including the official media" for spreading communalism and hatred.

She came down strongly on "the trend of glorifying obscenity in magazines, newspapers, films and TV," She demanded jobs and equal wages for women. The new economic policy, according to her, would fuel unemployment.

Arun Kumar from Patna, president of the All India Democratic Students Organisation, suggested that one way to tackle the "assault on Indian culture by communal forces" was to spread a new culture.

Pratish Chanda (Kerala) representing the Socialist Unity Centre of India, stressed that to defeat communalism and the new economic policy, "unity of the toiling people has to be built up throughout the country. Only then can they bring about the victory for us.

Finance Minister on Factors in Securities Scam

BK2604164693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] The finance minister told the Joint Parliamentary Committee [JPC] probing the security scandal that criminal collusion of bankers and brokers and RBI's [Reserve Bank of India's] failure to promptly act on its internal reports resulted in the scam. Appearing before the committee as a witness in New Delhi today, Dr. Manmohan Singh admitted that neither he nor the Finance Ministry was aware that funds were fuelling the stock markets [which] came from the banking sector clandestinely.

Briefing reporters, the JPC chairman, Mr. Ram Niwas Mirdha, said the finance minister refuted the charge that he had welcomed the high rise in share prices and took credit for it. He said Dr. Manmohan Singh drew the attention of the committee to one of his earlier statements that it was a case of a booming stock market in a crashing economy. The JPC chairman added that the finance minister admitted there was a lack of supervision over treasury and investment sections of the banks. Dr. Singh said until the scam broke out, these lapses were not regarded as important. He was skeptical of the claim of the bank managements that they were not aware of the irregularities by their subordinates. During the nearly four-hour-long deposition, the finance minister made it clear that the government did not want to intervene in the stock market. He said the Securities and Exchange Board of India [SEBI] has been given powers in this regard after the SEBI chairman expressed concern on the overheating of the market early last year. On foreign banks, he expressed the opinion that there is a need to strictly enforce restrictions, particularly in respect of concessional lending.

Iran

Military Exercises Begin in Northern Persian Gulf

LD2604154093 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] The amphibious maneuver staged by the naval forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Army and the Islamic Republic Guards Corps [IRGC], entitled Victory-4, began in the northern waters of the Persian Gulf this morning. The ace flyers of the Army Air Force are accompanied by 36,000 air, naval, and ground forces personnel. The 10-day maneuver is being staged in an area of 14,000 square miles. Participating forces use 80 large vessels, 100 speed boats, and 25 helicopters to perform the maneuver, together with the Air Force ace flyers.

Victory-4 Maneuvers Continue

LD2704104493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Excerpts] The Victory-4 maneuvers continued this morning with the joint morning parade ceremonies of the forces of the Second Naval Zone comprised of the Army and Islamic Guards Corps personnel of Bushehr.

[Unidentified correspondent] [passage omitted] After morning prayers, Rear Admiral Shamkhani, commander of the Navy and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, in the course of remarks, described the special features of the Victory-4 maneuvers that began yesterday. [passage omitted]

He said that 200 naval vessels and submarines; aircraft; helicopters; missile sides [preceding word in English], and electronic warfare equipment took part in the Victory-4 maneuvers, staged in this region of our Islamic homeland with 36,000 personnel from the Army and the Guards Corps who displayed enthusiastically the defensive capability of the forces of our Islamic homeland.

The commander of the Navy and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps also referred to the ability of the forces to repair and construct naval vessels and remarked: By relying on the endeavors of our forces, today we have the preparedness for building every kind of vessel [shenavar]. There are no vessels in the Army and the Guards Corps that we will not be able to reconstruct.

On the basis of the latest report received from the operational zone of the Victory-4 maneuvers this morning, the chemical, biological, and radioactive operations, and also operations involving frogmen, were carried out by the personnel of the Navy and the Guards Corps. The performing forces deployed new techniques displaying their capability and also their defensive preparedness in confronting the offensive operations of the imaginary enemy.

Central News Unit, Bushehr.

Vice President Details 25 Apr Cabinet Session

NC2604093093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] At last night's cabinet session, some clauses of a bill to help consumers were approved.

First Vice President Dr. Hasan Habibi, who is also the government spokesman, said in an interview with correspondents last night: The cabinet assessed the needs of farmers and decided that banks should give them adequate credit to buy pesticides and fertilizer. He added: This year the government has raised prices for its purchase of the assured harvests from farmers.

In answer to a question on the calculation of customs levies at the foreign exchange rate of 70 rials and whether it would have an unfavorable effect on the government's income and the market, Habibi said: The cabinet has not made any new decisions on customs or trade levies on imports, and the previous laws will have no impact on the government's income or the market. Regarding the possible unfavorable effect of the new exchange rate on the growth of industry or indigenous production, he said: The government will make decisions later on domestically produced commodities and production costs.

Habibi also discussed a report presented by the minister for housing and urban development, saying: The land allocated throughout the country by the end of 1371 [year beginning 21 March 1992] was to construct more than 240,000 residential units. He stressed that since 1369 [year beginning 21 March 1990] the tendency has been toward mass construction and the establishment of construction cooperatives. He added: Some 40,000 hectares of land in 660 districts of the country are currently being developed. He explained: The allocation of land to the services and education sector has increased fourfold in the past few years. In the past two years alone, 24 million square meters have been earmarked for expansion in the educational field.

Alluding to the approval of the bill by the Supreme Council for urban development for the construction of 22 new townships, the government spokesman said: The project for 13 townships is currently under way. To date more than 1.5 billion tumans have been spent for the infrastructure installations in each township.

Habibi also mentioned the second Five-Year Plan, saying: The plan is still being compiled. However, the general policy has been approved by the Planning Council. He clarified: Certain things will be included in the second Five-Year Plan, including expanding certain industries, using water resources more efficiently, and completing residual projects of the first Five-Year Plan.

The first vice president also discussed the Islamic Republic of Iran's stance on recent developments in

Pakistan, noting: Islamic Iran's policy is not to interfere in internal affairs of countries, and to maintain good neighborly relations toward its neighbors.

He added: Islamic Iran has no specific stance on developments in Pakistan; all we want is stability and progress in the friendly and fraternal country of Pakistan. These developments will not affect fundamental bilateral relations in any way.

Anti-U.S. Demonstrations Held To Mark Rescue Attempt

LD2504205893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Text] Our pious and revolutionary countrymen in the town of Tabas Sunday marked the anniversary of the shameful defeat of the American Armed Forces in the plains of Tabas.

Various strata of the people participated in the demonstration and also remembered Mohammad Montazer-Qaem, the commander of the Islamic Revolution's Guard Corp in the city of Yazd, who was martyred during the American aggression in the Tabas plains.

Similar ceremonies were held in the city of Yazd with the people expressing their disgust and hate toward America, IRIB reports.

CIA Head Views on Iran as Supporter of Terrorism Noted

LD2204155293 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 22 Apr 93

[Text] Yesterday CIA head James Woolsey once again described the Iranian Government as the most active and dangerous supporter of terrorism in the world. The head of the CIA gave Iran's continued insistence on the immutability of the death fatwa against Salman Rushdie as an example of Iran's support for terrorism. Woolsey said: Beside all this, Tehran has strengthened its ties with hardline Palestinian groups, which are against peace with Israel and share the same aim with Iran in destroying Israel in the long run.

U.S. 'Interference' in Pakistan Viewed

NC2704114793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 27 Apr 93

[Central News Unit research group commentary]

[Text] At the same time as recent developments on the Pakistani political scene, the head of the CIA announced that Pakistan is on the verge of being included in the list of countries that support terrorism. The accusations against Pakistan concern the spread of nuclear arms in Pakistan and its support for the Kashmiri Muslims and the secessionist Sikhs in Indian Punjab. The Pakistani Government considers these charges a mere pretext.

The United States is making such a move as extensive developments occur in Pakistan, which is in the throes of transition. The accusations can have mixed political repercussions, especially for the election campaign in Pakistan in July.

Political experts believe that including Pakistan in the list of countries that support terrorism will only fan anti-U.S. sentiment there, although Washington has officially expressed its support for the recent changes on the Pakistani political scene, which it has described as legitimate measures.

In 1990, with electioneering going on in Pakistan, the United States raised the issue of nuclear proliferation and severed its assistance to Pakistan. After the Cold War and a reduction in Pakistan's strategic importance for the United States, relations between Islamabad and Washington—two longstanding allies—became rather frigid. Until just before the dissolution of the former Soviet Union, the U.S. stance toward Pakistan was linked with factors such as its geographical location, its closeness with the West, and the issue of Afghanistan.

But with an end to the Cold War, which made such factors inconsequential, the United States reviewed its policy on Pakistan. In this manner, one of the results of the end to East-West tension appeared in U.S.-Pakistani relations. Since then, the United States has been expanding relations with India in its capacity as a regional superpower. It gradually withdrew its assistance to Pakistan on various pretexts and accused it of terrorism, support for Islamic fundamentalism, and possession of nuclear arms.

The recent accusations by the CIA director are part of this policy and maintain it, especially with the Pakistani election approaching and the United States trying to pressure it and influence the outcome.

U.S. officials' remarks, saying: We are apprehensive of the diplomatic consequences of the election in Pakistan, indicate U.S. efforts on this. This is interference in Pakistan's internal affairs.

CIA Director's Visit to Cairo Viewed

NC2604143993 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 15 Apr 93 p 17

[Unattributed commentary: "The 'CIA' in Egypt"]

[Excerpts] Informed sources in Egypt have revealed that James Woolsey, director of the U.S. espionage organization (the CIA), has arrived in Cairo for a visit to Egypt. [passage omitted]

Woolsey's visit is very significant in view of the circumstances in Egypt and should be assessed on a level higher than a routine visit to the Middle East.

Egypt is in the throes of a distinctive set of political circumstances. Politically and socially, things are critical and tense because protests abound and there is general popular opposition on the eve of a new round of the compromising talks between the Arabs and Israel with the Zionist regime.

In the past two months, the main streets of Cairo, Asyut, and some other cities have witnessed numerous violent clashes between the police and the people, who protested against the continuing obsequious policies of the Egyptian regime toward the Zionists. The protests by the Muslim Egyptian youths and their displays of fury against the Zionist regime—in circumstances in which the Egyptian- policed government has imposed the most brutal, restrictive, and repressive system—can prove the depth of the loathing and abhorrence of the devout Egyptian nation against the criminal Tel Aviv government and its affiliates in north Africa.

Today, all declarations of hatred for Zionism in the Islamic world are tantamount to disdain for leanings toward the Zionists too. Unfortunately, such leanings have been inculcated by some servile Arab governments. When this disgust and abomination is displayed in the center of Cairo, it also shows the Egyptian Muslim nation's rancor against the disgraceful Cairo regime.

It would be naive to consider Woolsey's visit routine. His presence in Cairo shows the decisive role of U.S. security and espionage services at the center of the Islamic country of Egypt. The Cairo regime also hopes that this visit, one by Mubarak to the United States, and his meeting with Clinton can enlist U.S. support to help restore stability and tranquillity to Egypt.

Today, the rise of Islamic sentiment and the growth in the political perception and thought of Muslims in north Africa have generated problems and headaches for these governments such that they render impotent most of the treacherous political schemes in forging future relations with the United States and Israel.

The Cairo regime should seek the roots of its problems in its hostile policies against Islam and Islamic susceptibilities. It should also seek the roots of all its misfortune and political disarray in the unholy alliance between Cairo and Tel Aviv.

The people of Egypt are politically aware. Egypt has a cultured and noble nation that does not find it difficult to differentiate between vice and virtue, truth and falsehood, service and treachery. On the day the fiery bullets of Khalid al-Islambuli tore apart the chest of the evil pharaoh, that is, al-Sadat, the people of Egypt proved they could distinguish between right and wrong and chastise those who betray Islam and the Egyptian Muslim nation.

Today, every traitorous Egyptian official who meets an Israeli official feels that one day he will encounter the wrath and fury of the Muslim Egyptian nation. This feeling can also be detected in the president of the Egyptian Government imposed on the Islamic society of Egypt. This is why Mubarak considers the visit by the head of the U.S. espionage organization to Cairo as a ray of hope to perpetuate his sway and his scepter and throne. He is unaware that this country recently proved that it won't be its governments or foreign powers that will shape the fate of Egypt's Islamic society, but the people and their powerful determination.

GCC Statement Seen as 'Utter Subservience' to U.S.

NC2604175893 Tehran SALAM in Persian 13 Apr 93 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "The Council of Cooperation With the United States"]

[Excerpts] Last week, the foreign ministers of six littoral Arab states in the Persian Gulf issued a statement on the conclusion of their two-day session in Riyadh that is indicative of this group's political perspective on regional problems.

Complete support is expressed for the United Arab Emirates' [UAE] claim to sovereignty over the three strategic islands of Abu Musa and Greater and Lesser Tunb. The statement also regrets unacceptable conditions by Iran for resuming talks with the UAE and Iran not cooperating with the UN secretary general's efforts on this. [passage omitted]

These countries' stances on Iran demonstrate their opportunistic capitalizing on political circumstances, internationally and regionally, and their unanimity with hostile U.S. policies against Iran. They also indicate that these countries do not follow a specific and farsighted policy in forging relations with Iran; instead, they act in accordance with international and regional circumstances opportunistically and regardless of our country's foreign policy toward them!

This is because the latest statement by this Council ignores facts and mentions issues that can only intensify the crisis in the region without benefiting either side!

The only reason for issuing such a statement is the utter subservience of these countries' rulers toward the United States and its new leader. This is because the Democrats have reached the seat of power by raising slogans of democracy and human rights. The Arab leaders have nothing in common with the Democrats, because the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf are based entirely on dictatorship! The Persian Gulf shaykhs are not too happy about the Democrats coming to power, but they are forced to bow down before the will of the American people!

The only government in the Persian Gulf region to have evolved on the basis of democracy is the Islamic Republic of Iran. Forging relations between Democrats and this anthology of countries creates a complex phenomenon. The new U.S. leader has adopted a hostile

stance toward the Islamic Republic of Iran for which it requires the unanimity of the Arab littoral states of the Persian Gulf, even though the structure or government of these countries does not conform with the Democrats' slogans in international politics.

The Arab littoral states of the Persian Gulf have dexterously joined the side of the United States in its inimical policy against Iran to save themselves from their predicament should a storm of democracy and human rights rear its head. It is obvious that with such an attitude, these countries concur more with the United States in its animosity for Iran each day and that this group of countries has metamorphosed into a "Council of Cooperation with the United States."

It is an irony of history that the Democrats who claim to advocate the defense of human rights and democracy are in practice following a policy of enmity and malice against the only country in the region to have a democratic administrative system based on the will of the people. Instead, they are forging friendly and close relations with countries that have no popular base and that are based on monarchy and absolute dictatorship.

As in the past, the Democrats' foreign policy follows an erratic course and has donned the false veneer of democracy and human rights as a deceptive cover for greater domination. If the Democrats really believed in these slogans, it would be enough for them to persuade these regimes to convene elections to ascertain their popular legitimacy. The experience of Algeria bears eloquent testimony to the veracity of this statement on such countries!

To prove the hollow claims of this spurious Council, just look at Iranian history to see that in the past three centuries, Iran has had no territorial claims against its neighbors. [passage omitted]

The leaders of the Arab littoral states should know that a country like Iran can defend itself and its territorial integrity because it has the strength and the experience. But the Kuwaiti experience has proved that the shaykhdoms have no such capability in the face of a war with their rivals.

That these countries have adopted such a stance against Iran indicates that our foreign policy in the past few years has not been very successful as regards our southern neighbors; it needs a thorough reappraisal. Hopefully, our foreign policy officials have learned a lesson and will now adopt a policy on these countries that projects the prestige, dignity, and greatness of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Commentary Views ICO's Inaugural Session, Agenda

NC2604082893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Central News Unit Research Group commentary]

[Text] The convocation of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] session, attended by foreign ministers of 51 member countries in Karachi, Pakistan, has concluded its inaugural session.

At the inaugural session on Sunday, important problems and crises in the Islamic world were reviewed by the Pakistani prime minister; our foreign minister; and the foreign ministers of Egypt, Mali, Bangladesh, Turkey, and a number of other Islamic countries. All the speakers stressed that a serious approach to these problems is needed.

The conference will enter its working phase today, and by 30 April more than 100 important topics incorporated in the 88- paragraph agenda will have been debated and reviewed.

The most important issue under discussion is the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina, which is also the most important current international crises. For more than a year, Bosnian Serbs have engaged in crimes, unleashing disasters in which nearly 300,000 women, children, and old and young Bosnians have been killed. Millions more Bosnian Muslims are bereft of any means of defending themselves and are in danger of massacre, hunger, and homelessness, with no clear prospects for the future.

The negligence of international circles, the United Nations, and the great powers of the world in the face of the continuation of this startling human catastrophe lays an enormous responsibility on Muslim governments. The Islamic world is expecting the Karachi conference to adopt serious decisions and take practical measures on this issue.

The double standards of the United Nations and the great powers on international crises, including the Palestinian crisis, the homelessness and uncertainty of the fate of more than 400 Palestinian deportees in the ice-bound mountainous terrain in occupied southern Lebanon, and the continuation of the repressive ironclad policies of Israeli against the Palestinian citizens in the West Bank and the Gaza strip, demands that Islamic countries take concerted measures for a solution from a position of strength and with initiative.

The presence of other difficulties and acute crises—such as the Azerbaijan-Armenian war; the situation in Tajikistan; the Kashmir problem; and the danger of the West's cultural onslaught against Islam, in the form of support for Salman Rushdie, author of the blasphemous book "Satanic Verses"—on the conference agenda have heightened the importance of the Karachi session.

However, political experts believe that despite these important topics, what should be given greater attention is the establishment of a cohesive working bloc of Islamic countries, a block that can become the framework and basis for solving all types of problems. Of course, reaching this objective will only be possible under the aegis of coordinated practical measures.

Habibi Views Tehran-Islamabad Ties

LD2604101093 Tehran IRNA in English 0955 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] Tehran, April 26, IRNA—First Vice-President Hasan Habibi here Sunday stressed that recent developments in Pakistan "cannot harm fundamental ties between Tehran and Islamabad."

Speaking to local reporters at the end of the Cabinet ministers Sunday evening, Habibi who is also the government spokesman, noted that Iran wished to see the friendly, fraternal and neighbouring Pakistan a powerful and stable country.

He reiterated that Iran's general as well as foreign policy focused on non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries. "We'll not interfere in the affairs of countries."

Therefore, Habibi added, the government would not adopt stands towards developments occurring in other countries, developments which were relevant to their regulations, traditions and laws.

Turning to domestic issues, the first vice-president assured that Bank Markazi (Central Bank) was ready to offer foreign currencies to applicants as much as they needed. This measure, he added, would put an end to the activities of foreign exchange dealers in the open market.

On April 13, the Central Bank announced that all Iranian banks would offer as much as dlrs. 5,000 at floating rates to every applicant.

As for the second five-year development plan, Habibi said that policies drawn up in this connection had been approved by the Planning Council, adding that topics would be gradually discussed at the High Economic Council.

Deputy Foreign Minister on Expelled Palestinians

LD2604142393 Tehran IRNA in English 1310 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] Tehran, April 26, IRNA—Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Huseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam said here Monday that the objective of Zionist regime behind expulsion of 417 Palestinians to Southern Lebanon was to deprive the Palestinian uprising of a powerful leadership.

Speaking at a seminar on political and legal analysis of the expulsion of the Palestinians, he said Israel was trying to undermine Muslim movements who are against the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and thus accelerate the so-called Middle East peace process and create tension between the PLO and the Islamic Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] movement.

However, he continued, the expulsion backfired and produced adverse results for Israel by giving new momentum to the six-year- old Islamic movement in the occupied territories.

He stressed full support of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the expelled Palestinians. He said that Iran has taken political steps to cooperate and coordinate with the Lebanese Government and other concerned parties to implement the Security Council Resolution 799 on immediate and unconditional return of the expelled Palestinians.

Hamas movement representative Emad al-Elmi and the representative of the Islamic Jihad Abu Jahad are to deliver speeches at the seminar later today over the impact of the expulsion on intifadah.

Arabs Warned Against Peace Talks Participation

NC2604150293 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 18 Apr 93 p 16

[Unattributed commentary: "The Compromising Talks and Damascus Session"]

[Text] The peace talks were due to be held on 20 April in Washington, but the Syrian foreign minister sought a week's postponement. Ostensibly, this step was taken to persuade the Palestinians to participate in the talks, while the participation of Palestinians inside the occupied areas in these talks remains swathed in a haze of ambiguity. In the past few days, 'Arafat and the PLO have given the green light to the United States and Israel, but the deportation of over 400 Palestinians and the daily mounting intifadah do not suggest the prospects are bright for the peace talks or their success.

The foreign ministers of Arab countries and Palestinian officials who met in Damascus to discuss participation in the Washington talks apparently did not reach any clear conclusion despite the efforts by the Syrian, Lebanese, and Jordanian delegations to achieve a mechanism for an overall consensus among Arabs and Palestinians to resume talks and their pressure to convince the Palestinians.

The points mentioned below merit attention in view of the compromising talks in Washington:

1. The United States and Israel tried hard to resume the talks on 20 April. Intense diplomatic activity took place in the past few months, reaching a peak with the meeting between Mubarak and the Israeli prime minister in Alexandria. Even 'Arafat, who is not considered by the United States or Israel, was also condescendingly extended a cordial invitation, which Mubarak conveyed to him!

2. When over 400 Palestinians remain in exile and Western propaganda agencies are reporting less on their pitiable plight in the wilderness between Israel and Lebanon, how could the talks benefit the Arabs? Did the Damascus session discuss the merits and demerits of participation in the Washington session decisively and realistically? Israel won't let the deportees return home and it won't guarantee against a repetition! In such

circumstances, participation in the talks would bring nothing but disgrace and humiliation and the offer of unilateral concessions.

3. The United States and Israel have concluded that as time passes, they can persuade the Arabs to surrender to their demands. Initially, the Arabs opposed compromise, but now they favor participating in the talks. Even before the recent deportation of the Palestinians, they all insisted on returning deportees to their hearth and home; time finds their insistence waning! It is unimaginable what would happen if the Arabs continued to retreat from their stances in this manner!

If there is a consensus that talks should continue, clearly, no benefits will accrue from them, because, in today's unjust world, the agenda for the so-called peace talks is also dictated by belligerent aggressors.

ROK Labor Minister Discusses Joint Cooperation

LD2304160293 Tehran IRNA in English 1503 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Tabriz (East Azerbaijan Prov.), April 23, IRNA—The value of joint ventures in industries and civil engineering by Iran and South Korea last year was about dlrs [dollars] one billion, according to the visiting Korean Labor Minister, Yi In-che, here today.

The Korean minister who is in Iran for the Conference of Asia- Pacific Labour Ministers (CAPLAM) was in Tabriz Friday to inspect the progress of work on a joint petrochemical project.

The total value of investments by Iran and Korea in the project, he said, was about dlrs 100 million. He said the project is to become operational next year.

The petrochemical unit of the project undertaken by Shin-hua of South Korea is expected to produce about 140,000 tons of ethylene every year.

The Korean labour minister returned to Tehran later Friday.

Nepal

Indian Help Sought on Bhutanese Refugee Issue

BK2104050093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] The Nepalese prime minister, Mr. G.P. Koirala, has reiterated that his government will seek India's cooperation in resolving Bhutanese refugee problem, failing which the issue will be raised at the United Nations. He informed the Kathmandu-based diplomats of the refugee problem at a meeting. The Indian ambassador, Professor Bimal Prasad, was also present. Mr. Koirala told diplomats that Nepal will have an open mind and shall be receptive to any proposal aimed at a solution of the refugee problem.

Minister Resigns; Cabinet Reshuffle Rumored

BK2604162493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1511 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] Kathmandu, April 26 (AFP)—One of the senior ministers of Nepal's cabinet resigned Monday due to serious differences with Nepalese Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala, it was announced Monday.

The official announcement, quoting a royal palace press note, said: "King Birendra has accepted the resignation submitted by Minister of Agriculture Reforms and Management Jagan Nath Acharya through Prime Minister Koirala. The king has elevated Assistant Minister Siddhi Raj Ojha, serving in the same ministry to the rank of a state minister on recommendation of Prime Minister Koirala," the official announcement on Radio Nepal said.

The resignation came amid rumours of an impending major cabinet reshuffle, observers here said. No reason for the resignation was given.

Acharya was one of the most senior ministers of the Koirala cabinet, having served since its inception in June 1991.

"Koirala had been contemplating reshuffling the cabinet by dropping some of his senior ministers to make the government effective and efficient," a source close to the cabinet secretariat said.

Meanwhile, the king appointed former Communications Secretary, Bishnu Pratap Shah, as the Chief Election Commissioner, the post vacated by Nepal's Ambassador to London, Surya Prasad Shrodha, the state radio announced.

Pakistan

Police Charge, Teargas Sharif Supporters

BK2404141093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1400 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Text] Karachi, April 24 (AFP)—Police baton-charged the crowd and were pelted with missiles Saturday as some 4,000 supporters welcomed deposed premier Nawaz Sharif at the airport here on his nationwide campaign against the president who deposed him.

Police also teargassed hundreds of Sharif's supporters in central Karachi.

Army trucks filled with battle-ready troops and a jeep fitted with a machine gun on top cruised around the airport's arrival area as Sharif arrived, six days after he was sacked by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan.

"Sharif, Welcome Sharif!" the crowd chanted, led by taxi drivers atop their "yellow cabs" and by former provincial government cabinet ministers.

Sharif's government was ousted last Sunday by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan after a three-month struggle over which office ruled the country.

Sharif, a 44-year-old former businessman accused of corruption by the president, was unable to address the enthusiastic airport crowd, which had him in its grip until he finally made his way to a waiting jeep.

Dozens more of the yellow cabs, introduced last year with loans made available by the Sharif government, waited outside the airport after police stopped them from getting in.

Sharif's supporters also clogged main arteries of the busy port city of some 10 million people, Pakistan's largest, which was preparing to host from Sunday a meeting of foreign ministers of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

Earlier, as he stepped up his campaign, Sharif accused Ishaq Khan of plotting his arrest on a murder charge.

As the dismissed premier flew toward Karachi, his first visit there since his sacking, the authorities clamped a ban on public meetings and political demonstrations.

The provincial government of southern Sindh, of which Karachi is the capital, said the restrictions were imposed for security reasons ahead of the Islamic conference.

Sharif said the new government planned to implicate him in the alleged murder of army chief General Asif Nawaz, whose widow claimed recently that her husband did not die of a heart attack as officially stated.

She blamed members of Sharif's government, saying his January death was a "political assasination."

Ishaq Khan also cited the widow's allegations when he dismissed Sharif and dissolved the national assembly on April 18 for alleged corruption and mismanagement.

In Karachi, Sharif had been scheduled to march in a procession from the airport to the mausoleum of Pakistan's founding father, Mohammed Ali Jinnah, but sources said he would only lay a wreath and perhaps address the crowd there.

Sharif launched his popular campaign against the presidential action after challenging it in the high court as illegal and unconstitutional.

Meanwhile, in the federal capital Islamabad the interim government reiterated its promise to hold fair elections July 14 and ordered the state-controlled electronic media not to black out Sharif's opposition group.

"We want to restore the credibility of the media, which Sharif destroyed by denying its use to his opponents," Information Minister Kausar Niazi said.

The television showed footage of Sharif chairing a meeting of his party in Lahore on Friday for the first time since his ouster.

Sharif left Lahore almost at the same time as caretaker Prime Minister Balkh Sher Mazari flew into the Punjab capital on his first trip, leading to a minor scuffle at the airport between the two men's supporters, sources said.

New Punjab Chief Minister Sworn In 25 Apr

BK2604032093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 26 April 93

[Text] Mian Manzoor Ahmed Wattoo took the oath of office of the Punjab chief minister at the Durbar Hall of the governor's house in Lahore last night. Provincial Governor Chaudhary Mohammad Altaf Hussain administered the oath of office.

The provincial governor has summoned the Punjab Assembly to meet today at 1700.

Wins Vote of Confidence

BK2604160693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] The Punjab assembly has reposed confidence in the new chief minister, Mr. Manzoor Ahmed Wattoo, by 158 votes. The Punjab assembly met in Lahore this afternoon. The deputy speaker, Munawar Ali Ranjha, presided over the proceedings. He brought the motion of confidence to the house. However, after raising some points of order, the members supporting the former chief minister, Mr. Ghulam Haider Wyne, staged a walk out from the house. When the motion was put to house, 158 members of the assembly voted in its favor. The Punjab assembly has 248 seats. One seat is vacant.

The new leader of the house in the Punjab assembly, Mr. Manzoor Ahmed Wattoo, was sworn in as the chief minister of Punjab at the Governor's House, Lahore last night. Provincial chief secretary read out the official notification. The Punjab governor, Chaudhary Mohammad Altaf, administered oath to the new chief minister. The oath-taking ceremony was attended, among others, by leaders of Pakistan Muslim League, Pakistan People's Party, judges of the Lahore High Court, and high-ranking officials.

Earlier, Mr. Manzoor Ahmed Wattoo was elected new leader of the Punjab assembly by an overwhelming majority of the house.

Four Ministers Assigned Cabinet Portfolios

BK2604153493 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 26 Apr 93 p 1

[Text] Islamabad—Four members of the caretaker cabinet, Anwar Saifullah Khan, Mir Hazar Khan Bijarani, Asif Ali Zardari and Sardar Fateh Mohammad Hasni were allotted portfolios on Sunday.

According to a Cabinet Division notification Anwar Saifullah who was minister of environment and urban affairs division in Nawaz Sharif's cabinet has been

allotted the portfolio of housing and works (environment and urban affairs and works division).

Bijarani who was defense production minister in the previous govt, has been given the portfolio of defence (defence, aviation divisions). Zardari is minister for water and power.

Hasni, president PPP [Pakistan People's Party] Balochistan, has been allotted the portfolio of local govt and rural development. During Benazir's tenure he was state minister for communication.

Of 17 ministers and two advisers only six have ben allotted portfolios so far.

An expected expansion of the caretaker cabinet on Sunday morning was postponed for unknown reasons. Those expected to be inducted in the caretaker cabinet include Ahsanul Haq Piracha, Makhdum Amin Fahim, Jahangir Badar, Zafar Leghari, Kurshid Mahmood Qasuri, Parwez Ali Shah, Afaaq Shahid, Sardar Asif Ahmed, Malik Qasim, Pir Ali Gohar, Shah Rashid, Kishan Chand Parwani, Haj Gul Sher Khan, Malik Atmal Khan, Asad Junejo and Jam Mashooq.

Muslim League Condemns Zadari Cabinet Appointment

BK2304143393 Karachi DAWN in English 23 Apr 93 p 18

[Text] Lahore, Apr 22—The Central Working Committee [CWC] of the Pakistan Muslim League (N) [Nawaz Sharif], which met under the chairmanship of its President Main Nawaz Sharif, condemned appointment of Mr. Asif Ali Zardari as a federal minister.

A resolution passed by the CWC said Zardari was involved in serious criminal cases, which the president himself had got registered against him. The step amounts to insulting the constitution and the court bearing cases against the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] leader, it added.

The resolution also condemned the action because the PPP government was also dismissed on serious charges, references on the basis of which were still pending before the courts.

Another resolution directed the people in general and the PML (N) workers in particular that while protesting against President's undemocratic actions against the Nawaz government they should not cause any law and order situation.

Yet another resolution expressed at a meeting of the aid to Pakistan consortium as a result of which aid worth 2.3 billion dollars has become doubtful. The resolution condemned what it said the murder of democracy at the hands of the president whom it held responsible for the subsequent flight of capital.

The resolution rejected the reasons cited by the president for dismissal of the assembly and pointed to the statements of the caretaker prime minister and a minister who had expressed determination to continue the same policies which the previous government was pursuing.

The resolutions also held President Ishaq responsible for the no- confidence motion tabled against the Punjab Chief Minister.

Meanwhile, the PML (N) President Mr. Nawaz Sharif has nominated Messrs Ghulam Haider Wyne and Fida Mohammad Khan as the Punjab and North Western Frontier Province presidents of his party. Fida Mohammad Khan has also been empowered to appoint other office bearers.

Wyne told reporters that Speaker Wattoo was carrying on horse trading in the province with the backing of the president.

He said break up of the PML was a political necessity of the president

He told a questioner that the provincial chief secretary had been transferred by the federal government while DIG [Deputy Inspector General] Lahore Division had been called back by the centre.

He said the provincial administration. [sentence as published]

Prominent among the participants of the CWC meeting were: Mian Nawaz Sharif, Ijetzul Haq, Ghulam Haider Wyne, Chaudhary Abdul Ghafoor, Chaudhary Shujat Hussain, Dr Attiya Inayatullah, Mohammed Siddiq Khan Kanju, Sheikh Rashid Ahmed, Jam Yousaf Ali, Sardar Mehtab Abbasi, Gen (retd) [Retired] Majid Malik, Tasneem Nawaz Gardezi, Raja Nadir Pervaiz, Zakiudding Pal and Ghulam Dastagir Khan.

President on Dissolution of Provincial Assemblies

BK2604155693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 26 Apr 93

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has categorically stated that the provincial assemblies cannot be dissolved as long as they are working in accordance with the constitution and the law. He made this assurance to the members of the Sindh cabinet and assembly in their separate meetings with him in Karachi this afternoon. The president said the dissolution of the assemblies is purely a constitutional matter and a decision in this regard cannot be made in response to anyone's personal likes or dislikes. He said that in its earlier rulings on the matter, the Supreme Court had clarified the situation and circumstances under which the right to dissolve the assemblies can be exercised and had set guiding principles for this purpose. He said every step to dissolve the assemblies in the end goes to the court where it is reviewed in minute detail. He asked the provincial

assembly members not to be misled by anyone's propaganda in this connection and to discharge their responsibilities as per the constitution. The president reiterated that the general elections will be held in a free and fair manner on the date fixed. He said it is a constitutional demand that needs to be fulfilled. He asked the provincial assembly members to bear in mind that democracy is a collective responsibility in which everyone has to play his due role and sincerely support all the efforts made to achieve this objective.

Earlier, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah briefed the president on the law and order situation, current socioeconomic programs, and other provincial affairs. In their speeches on the occasion, provincial ministers and assembly members paid tribute to the president for leading the country and safeguarding the democratic system during the political crisis.

Further Reaction to National Assembly Dissolution

Punjab MPs Back President

BK2404144293 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Text] A 24-member group of MPA's [members of Provincial Assembly] from Punjab led by Speaker Mian Manzur Ahmed Wattoo called on the president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, at the Aiwan-i-Sadar [President House] this afternoon. The group lauded the president's recent action thereby giving the people of the country a chance to give a fresh mandate to the leadership of their choice. During the meeting general political situation in the Punjab province also came under discussion. Former provincial ministers and advisors were present.

Quetta Trade Centers Protest

BK2504154493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 25 Apr 93

[Text] Some trade centers and other institutions in Quetta remained closed today in response to a call by the Balochistan Chamber of Commerce to protest the dissolution of the National Assembly. However, offices, schools, and banks remained open and traffic on the street was normal.

'Clean' Sharif Followers Invited To Join Government

BK2304151993 Hong Kong AFP in English 1224 GMT 23 Apr 93

[Text] Islamabad, April 23 (AFP)—A key member of Pakistan's interim government Friday offered slots in the new setup to "clean" followers of ousted Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

Farooq Leghari, inducted as finance minister after President Ghulam Ishaq Khan sacked Sharif Sunday, told a news conference that caretaker premier Balkh Sher Mazari's team represented a government of national consensus.

Former prime minister Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and a faction of the conservative Pakistan Muslim League (PML), which has broken with Sharif, have received the lion's share in the Mazari cabinet, which was enlarged Thursday. Bhutto's husband, Asif Ali Zardari, was among the 15 ministers added to the government.

"As we are a government of national consensus we are open to all," Leghari said, adding that only those with a "clean" record would be acceptable from the Sharif faction of the PML.

Leghari said many more ministers would be inducted as there were some 30 ministries in the government. "When the cabinet is completed it will more truly reflect a national consensus government."

A key lieutenant of Bhutto, Leghari said a broad-based government with the widest possible political representation would be conducive to holding fair and free elections which are scheduled for July 14.

Leghari also said the "plunderers" of national wealth, an implicit reference to Sharif's government, would not go unpunished, but the process would be carried out under normal law.

Nawaz Sharif on General's Death, Politics

BK2404131793 Karachi DAWN in English 24 Apr 93 p 16

[Text] Lahore, April 23—Former prime minister Nawaz Sharif on Friday disclosed that examination by an army medical team into the death of Gen. Asif Nawaz had found no foul play.

In this regard he quoted the Chief of Army Staff [COAS], Gen. Abdol Waheed Kakar, who, said Nawaz Sharif, had informed him that there had been no evidence that the former COAS had died as a result of some foul play. "I strongly condemn concocted stories being promoted by the Presidency about the death of Gen. Asif Nawaz," he told editors, senior journalists, columnists and intellectuals whom he had invited for an informal chat.

According to him, allegations in this regard were aimed at exerting political pressure on him.

During his talk, the former prime minister gave a background of the political situation and listed the causes of the fall of his government. He said the main question was whether a popularly elected parliament was supreme or "conspiracies of power hungry politicians and the 'gang-of-four' should prevail."

Nawaz Sharif said that "dispute" with the President had, in fact, started in the very first week of his assuming the office of prime minister.

He said he wanted to abolish the offices of the Inspector General of Police and the Chief Commissioner of Islamabad. "After I expressed my desire to this effect, the President wrote me a letter forbidding me against the action, saying it would be unlawful."

Mr. Nawaz said "I made all possible efforts to develop a working relationship with the President, but the President had been misled by a few power hungry elements which ultimately caused Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan to place his personal interests before national interest."

Commenting on the expansion of the caretaker Cabinet, Nawaz Sharif termed it "an unholy and unprincipled alliance between Benazir Bhutto and Ghulam Ishaq Khan," which had been completely "unmasked" with the induction of Asif Ali Zardari in the cabinet.

He recalled the speech of the President on Aug 6, 1990 in which he had alleged involvement of Mr. Zardari in a criminal case and held it as one of the reasons for the dissolution of assemblies. "Now when the President has inducted these very people in the caretaker administration, he has lost all ethical and moral ground to continue in office. He must step down for this action alone," Nawaz Sharif said.

Mr. Sharif feared "serious economic consequences" of the Presidential action and said it "amounted to economic sabotage of the country."

He said strikes by traders were an "expression of deep resentment against the action." It was "ironical that the President has criticised my economic policies in his dissolution speech, but on the other hand Government functionaries are saying that the same polices would continue. Thus my government's policies stand vindicated," he said.

The former prime minister denied reports appearing in a section of the Press that the Pakistan Muslim League (N) would not hold joint rallies with the Awami National Party [ANP]. He stated that the alliance with the ANP had been "strengthened during the current democratic struggle and would continue."

Mr. Nawaz Sharif said that he had made a two-pronged attack on the Government—legal and political.

He referred to his train journey from Rawalpindi to Lahore and said he found the people deeply aggrieved. He also thanked the women supporters particularly those who had held a demonstration in Karachi deploring the action against his government.

In reply to a question, Nawaz Sharif said his dispute with the President had not been on the appointment of Gen Abdol Waheed as COAS, but over the name of another general. (He did not mention the name).

Asked what he had to say about the letter that he had written to Ghulam Ishaq Khan for the dismisal of the government of Benazir Bhutto, the former prime minister said he was not alone in writing such a letter.

On a question about the possibility of his joining hands iwth Benazir Bhutto in a democratic struggle, he only offered a broad smile. He also grinned when reminded that at the time of no confidence motion against Ms Bhutto in 1989, he (Nawaz) had taken the Punjab MPAs [members of provincial assembly] to Changa Manga and asked as to why he was critical of their trip to Islamabad now.

Asked as to why he did not accept the cooperation of Benazir Bhutto in repealing the Eighth Amendment, Nawaz Sharif said "it was out of respect for the President and because I did not expect that he would take action against my government."

Asked to explain the financial gains his family had made in the last decade, Nawaz Sharif said: "What is wrong if my family's business has grown. What is wrong if thousands of people are earning their livelihood as a result of this growth."

New Army Chief Says Military To Remain Neutral

BK2604135093 Karachi DAWN in English 26 Apr 93 p 22

[Text] Nikial (Azad Kashmir), April 25—General Abdul Waheed, Chief of Army Staff [COAS] has reiterated that the Pakistan Army has taken great care to act in the best interest of the nation by upholding the constitution of the country.

According to an ISPR [Inter-Services Public Relations] Press release, while addressing a troops darbar [reunion meeting] in the forward areas of Azad Kashmir on Sunday, the Chief of Army Staff said that, on taking over command of the Army, he had emphatically stated his intentions of politics. He said this had now been practically demonstrated by the Army's absolute neutrality in the current political situation.

Gen Waheed said that, in fact, the Army's sole concern throughout had been to safeguard the integrity of the country against undue pressures both from the international and external fronts. Therefore, all ranks of the Army remained ever ready and vigilant to fulfil both the tasks, he added.

The COAS said he was an optimist by nature and had great faith in the partriotism and collective wisdom of the national as a whole. This had been amply demonstrated by the fact that the constitution of the country had remained intact and the current crisis had been dealt with within the confines of the constitution.

Gen Waheed said that a firm commitment had been made by the caretaker government to hold elections, as stipulated in the constitution. "The mere fact that no call for violence or unlawful challenge has been issued to the writ of the government by any major political party or personality speaks highly of the political maturity and

heightened sense of responsibility of all political elements of the country", he added.

Gen Waheed said that all this seemed to suggest that the political process was maturing and, Insha Allah [God willing], the country would come out of this situation with strengthened institutions and increased faith in the democratic process. He stressed that it was imperative that all ranks of the Army continued devoting themselves fully to achieving professional excellence. He exhorted the troops to remain ever prepared to defend the integrity of the motherland even at the peril of their lives.

The Chief of Army Staff earlier visited various formation headquarters during his tour and attended briefings given by commanders to apprise him of their state of preparedness. During his visit to the outposts in Azad Kashmir he was accompanied by Corps Commander Lt-Gen Ghulam Mohammad Malik and the General officer Commanding, Major-General Ghaziuddin Rana.

Gen Waheed flew back to Rawalpindi in the afternoon.

Zardari on Ensuring 'Free, Fair' Elections

BK2504112193 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 25 Apr 93 p 4

[Text] APP [Associated Press of Pakistan] Multan—Federal Minister Asif Ali Zardari has said that the provincial assemblies have got to be dissolved as per the agreement of his party with the president. He said that as caretaker ministers, it was their prime responsibility to ensure free and fair elections within 90 days. "We would fulfil this responsibility," he added.

He was talking to newsmen at the Multan airport late Friday night on his return from Khangarh, where he had gone to condole the death of Begum Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan.

He said that the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] did not believe in politics of revenge.

He said it was wrong to say that elections can not be held up to July 14. "Our stand in this regard is very clear that the elections must be held within 90 days of the dissolution of the previous National Assembly. PPP will reconsider its decisions if the elections are delayed," he added.

He said that we want elections, and not accountability. He said that a special commission would be constituted as per the agreement with the president to review the cases of those who were appointed in jobs during the PPP regime and were removed by the Nawaz Sharif government.

This commission would also examine the cases of those who were meted out discriminatory treatment in economic and financial matter, Zardari said.

Commenting on the campaign being launched by the former prime minister, Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, Zardari said that everybody has got the right to launch such campaigns and he found nothing wrong in it.

He said that there had been eleven cases against him in the courts out of which he has been acquitted in nine of them. He hoped that he would be acquitted in the remaining two cases as well.

Army To Be Deployed Outside Polling Stations

BK2604134993 Karachi DAWN in English 26 Apr 93 pp 1, 18

[Text] Islamabad, April 25—Pakistan Army troops, cannot be deployed inside polling stations or booths but there would be a massive patrolling outside, Chief Election Commissioner [CEC], Justice Naimuddim has officially informed the PDA [People's Democratic Alliance]

"But we are prepared to formally request the Army to take up supervisory positions even inside polling stations, if the PDA makes a formal request", Justice Naimuddin told 'DAWN' on Sunday.

"I will invoke Article 220 of the Constitution and ask the Army for assistance even inside the polling stations", the CEC said.

A senior PDA leader, speaking on condition of anonymity, said he had discussed the subject with top Army officials in Sindh and they were prepared to perform any duty that they were asked to under the Constitution.

The PDA thinks that the Election Commissioner was trying to complicate things unnecessarily.

The question of Army supervision of polls was raised by the PDA chief, Benazir Bhutto in a recent news conference, as the wanted to ensure that no provincial or federal government functionary tried to influence either the polling or the results of the elections.

"But now a big question mark has been raised because if the Army is not deployed in the by elections for a few provincial assembly seats, how would they be deployed for general elections throughout the country", the PDA leader said.

"The Election Commission is playing the dirty tricks once again", the PDA leader maintained and said: "When we asked the Chief Election Commissioner not to deploy provincial government servants on election duties in the byelections, he flatly refused".

The PDA says it had demanded that Army officers should not only perform duties inside the polling booths but inside the polling stations as well because it were these booths where candidates played the tricks, at the time of the polling as well as the time of counting or ballots.

Under Article 220 of the Constitution, "It shall be the duty of all executive authorities in the federation and in

the provinces to assist the Commission and the Election Commission in the discharge of his or their functions".

According to a legal expert under this Article the Election Commission can direct the Army to not only take up duties inside the polling stations but the polling booths as well.

"If the Chief Election Commissioner does not want to deploy the Army, it is his decision but he should not try to shift the onus on the Army authorities as they are already out in Sindh to assist the Provincial Government under Article 147 of the Constitution", the legal expert said.

The PDA, the senior leader said, was now part of the government and as such "when we express out dissatisfaction over the functioning of the Chief Election Commissioner, he should have the courtesy to resign as he does not enjoy the full confidence of the Federal Government.

"But it seems that the dirty tricks brigade which performed 'miracles' in the 1990 elections is out to replay the whole drama once again", the PDA leader said.

This situation cannot continue for long [word indistinct] PDA chief Benazir Bhutto is likely to reach Islamabad on Monday and raise the matter with the President and the Prime Minister, PDA sources said.

"If some byelections cannot be held under a free and fair atmosphere, how can the PDA remain a party to the general elections to be held under the same setup", the PDA leader said.

The present tensions between the PDA, NDA [National Democratic Alliance] and President Chulam Ishaq Khan are centred around the dissolution of the provincial assemblies and the changes in the Election Commission, PDA sources say, "But the attitude of the Chief Election Commissioner was now becoming intolerable and we will have to put our foot down if this whole set up has to go any further".

New Intelligence Bureau Director Appointed

BK2304130093 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 23 Apr 93 p 1

[Text] Islamabad—Secretary Narcotics Control Divison Nazeer Ahmed Malik was appointed Director of the Intelligence Bureau (IB) whereas Major (retd) Aamir, Director Immigration of the Federation Investigation Agency (FIA), was removed from his office Thursday.

Nazeer Ahmed Malik belongs to the police service. The top slot in the set up of the intelligence agency fell vacant as Brigadier (retd) Imtiaz, a close assiciate of Nawaz Sharif, tendered his resiganation the day National Assembly was dissolved.

It may be recalled that Imtiaz and Major (retd) Aamir were the two major players behind the "Mid Night Jackal", which was a trap for the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] leaders to shift their loyalties off Ms Benazir Bhutto during her tenure. When this conspiracy was unearthed, the two offices were retired from the army with a note "fault of officers", 25 percent of their pension was also deducted as penalty. When Nawaz Sharif government came into power, Imtiaz was appointed IB chief and Aamir was given the charge of the Director Immigration, FIA.

Some other FIA officials were also removed from their offices on Thursday. Deputy Director Immigration and Anti-Smuggling (I&AS), Karachi, Saijad Hussain Gilani, Assistant Director I&AS, Karachi, Fazaljat, and Chaudhary Sharif, Assistant Director, Karachi, were also discharged form their current duties.

However, Qazi Aleemullah, Principle Secretary (PS) to the Prime Minister Balkh Sher Mazari asked him to continue working in the same capacity. With the removal of the Nawaz Sharif government it was speculated that Qazi Aleemulah would be removed from his present office. But, sources said the PM Mazari acknowledged Qazi's best services in the past and asked him to retain the present post. However, some other changes are expected in a few days. It is expected that Sikandar Jamali will replace Saeed Mehdi in the PM secretariat. Silandat Jamali, presently Member Planning Commission, belongs to the known Jamali family of Balochistan. Personal staff of Nawaz Sharif had also been sent back to their respective departments Thursday.

Meanwhile Muhammad Ishaq Dat, Chairman Pakistan Investment Board, has also tendered his resignation.

Deputy Inspector General [DIG] or police, Lahore, Rana Maqbool, who was transferred and made OSD [expansion unknown] by the federal government, will continue serving in the same post as the government has withdrawn its earlier orders and issued a new notification saying that Maqhool would remain the DIG, Lahore.

Agreement With PRC To Open Khunjerab Pass

BK2404084093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 24 Apr 93

[Text] Pakistan and China have agreed to open the Khunjerab Pass for international traffic from the 1st of next month. This was decided during a meeting between the visiting Chinese delegation and Pakistani officials in Gilgit today. The two sides also agreed to take necessary steps to facilitate tourists traveling on the Karakoram Highway via Khunjerab Pass.